

THE  
BELMAN  
OF LONDON.

BRINGING TO LIGHT  
the most notorious Villanies that  
are now practised in the Kingdome.

Profitable for Gentlemen, Lawyers, Merchants, Citizens,  
Farmers, Masters of Households, and all sorts of ser-  
vants to mark, and delightfull for all men to read.

*Lege, Perlege, Relege.*

*The fifth Impression, with new additions.*



Printed at London by MILES FLESHER: 1640.

A

**Table of the Principall matters con-**  
*tayned in this Booke.*

**A** Discouerie of all the idle Vagabonds in England :  
their conditions : theirs Lawes amongst themselves :  
their degrees and orders : their meetings and their man-  
ners of living, both men and women.

A discouery of certaine secret villanies, which bor-  
rowe to themselves the names of Lawes.

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AS

Cheating Law.	Bernards Lawe.
Vincents Law.	The black Art.
Curbing Law.	Prigging Law.
Lifting Law.	High Law.
Sacking Law.	Frigging Law.
Five lumps as Leape-frog.	


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The



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The poore BELMAN of London,

To all those that either by office are sworne  
to punish, or in their owne loue to vertue, wish  
to haue the disorders of a state amend, Humbly dedi-  
cateth these his discoveries.

T your *Gates* the *Belman* of London bea-  
teth, to awaken your eies, to looke backe  
after certaine *Grand* and common abuses,  
that daily walke by you, keeping aloofe  
(in corners) out of the reach of Law. It  
must be the hand of your authoritie that must fetch in  
these *Rebels* to the weale-publike, and your arme that  
must strike them: I chuse you as *Patrons*, (not to my  
booke) but to defend me from those *Monsters*, whose  
dennes I breake open in this my discouerie. More dan-  
gerous they are to a State, then a *Ciwill warre*, because  
their villanies are more subtile and more enduring. The  
*Belman* notwithstanding hath plaid the *Owle* (who is the  
*Embleme* of wisdom) for sleeping in the day, as abhor-  
ring to behold the impieties of this last and worst age of  
the world. In the night therefore hath he stolne forth, and  
with the helpe of his Lanthorne and Candle (by which is  
figured circumspection) hath hee brought to light, that  
broode of mischiefe, which is ingendered in the wombe  
of darknesse. A monstrous birth is it, and therefore wor-  
thy to bee looked at: from monstrous parents doth it  
proceede, and therefore the sight of it to be fearefull. But  
of such rare temper are your eyes, that (as if they had sun-  
beames in them) they are able to exhale up all these con-  
tagious breaths which poyson a Kingdome, & so to speise  
A 2 them

*The Belmans Epistle.*

them into thin aire, that they shall utterly vanish, and bee no more offensive. In this blacke shore of mischife have I sayled along, and beene a faithfull discoverer of all the creekes, rockes, gulfes and quick sands, in and about it: Bee you therefore as second :duenturers, and furnish men armed with Justice, and well furnished in all points, with a desire to conquer these Sauvages, and send them to set strong and fearefull footing among them. It shall bee honour to your selves, and them, and a rich benefit to the *Republik* wherein you liue. For my owne part I vow, that as I dedicate these my labours to your hand, so will I devote my life to the safety of my Countrie, in defending her from these serpents. I will waite out mine eies with my candles, and watch from midnight till the rising up of the morning: my *Bell* shall euer be ringing, and that faithfull servant of mine (the Dog that follows me) be ever biting of these wilde beasts, till they bee all driven into one herd, and so haunted into the toiles of the *Law*. Accept therefore of this *Night-prize* ( my *Grave* and worthy *Patrons* ) drawne rudely, and presented bouldly, because I know the colors layd upon it, are not counterfeit as those of borrowd beauties: but this is a picture of *Villanie*, drawne to the life, of purpose that life might bee drawne from it. None can bee offended with it but such as are guilty to themselves, that they are such as are inrold in this muster booke, for whose anger, or whose stab, I care not. At no mans bosome doe I particularly strike, but only at the body of *Vice* in Generall: if my maner of *Fight* (with these dangerous masters of the *Ignoblest Science* that euer was in any Kingdome ) do get but plause, the *Belman* shall shortly bid you to another *Prize*, where you shall see him play at other kind of weapons.



Devoted night and day yours,  
*The Belman of London.*



## THE

*Belman of London.*

Discouering the most notable villanies now  
in the Kingdome.



THE world at the first was made of nothing, and shall at the last be consumed to nothing. The fashion of it is round, for a Circle is the most perfect figure, So this, the rarest and most absolute frame, that ever the creature made. It was indeed (excepting that which was like himselfe) his Passer piece.

In this great world did he place a little world (and as the lesser wheels in a clock being set a going, giues motion to the greatest, and serues them as guides) So that little world (called man) both by his Art, office and power, controule the greater: yet is there such a harmony in both their motions, that though in quantitie they differ far, yet they agree in qualitie: and though the one was made some what before the other, yet are they so like, that they seeme to be instruments belonging to one Engine. For man is made up by the mixture of foure complexions, Bloud, Flegme, Choller, and Melancholly. The world is a ball made up of foure Elements, Water, Ayre, Earth, and Fire, yea these very Elements haue likewise parts in him. The world is circular, So is man, for let him stand upright and extend forth his armes to the length, A line drawn from his nauell to all the vtmost limits of his body, makes his body Orbiculer. And as man hath foure

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ages, Infancie, Child-hood, Youth and old age: so hath the world in which foure measures of time are filled out, the risings and fallings, the growings up and the witherings both of the one and the other.

cription of  
4 ages of  
World.

Iden age.

The Infancy of the world was the golden age (not so called because men had at that time more gold then they haue now,) for not to deceiue you, there was (then) not a peece of gold stirring, but as this sacred metall is the purest that the earth can bring forth, so the golden age was the best of all the foure, and the most blessed: For then all the earth was but one garden, where (without planting) grew all sorts of trees, which (without grafting) carried all sorts of fruites: the ground was not wrinkled with furrowes, for there were then no plough-men to misse her beauty: the Sea was not rugged, for there were then no ships to bruise her body: there were no countries, for there were no Kings: all the world was but one Land, and all the people in it but one Nation; who knew not how to obey any, because none amongst them had a desire to commaund: their houses were the shadowes of some rings of trees, & their stateliest buildings were garden houses. Justice in those daies had eyes, & pittie eares, for none could captaine of wrong and not be relæued, nor any cry out for want who were not satisfied: Oppression was either then not borne, or if there were in the world she had no hands to strike, or if she did strike, the blowes were no other then such as when with a sword we cut the water, they did no harme. The Law (in this golden time) got no gold: they were neither Counsellors to pleade, nor Attornies to plod by and downe: the name of a false-taking was not knowne: there were no Clpents, and therefore no Courts kept, neither Terme nor Vacations: what a merry world was this: The frozen nialles of winter, nor the pestilent scorching breath of Summer did not then destroy the fruits of the earth: there was no Autumne, for there was no yeare; the whole yeare was but one month, and that month was euer, nay, it was a continuall Spring, so that man (the Emperour of earth) grew proud, insolent, and saucie: the fulnesse of this happinesse making him swell into such a disdain of the gods, that hee preferred the vice-roy-ship of this lower kingdom (bestowed vpon him by them) and  
the

the pleasures vpon which he surteted here, befoze these selfelies  
which they enjoy'd aboue. Whereupon as men in these dayes, so  
did the Gods in those, hound vp to themselves that Golden age:  
they toke it away from mortals, because they were unworthy of  
it, and on a sudden changed it into white money, so that the Gol-  
den age became the Silver.

As those two metals (of Gold and Silver) are in degrees of <sup>The silver</sup> basenes one to another, so were those two ages in degrees of <sup>age.</sup>

Wadnes. The Silver age was worse then the former: the change  
of metals brought in the change of manners: for now men pluck  
feathers from the wings of Ambition, and with those plumes la-  
boured to fly one aboue another: their Waines now wrought day  
and night how to frame toles to cut downe trees, of those trees  
to build houses, of those houses to set vp Cities, of those Cities  
to raise Kingdomes, and from those Kingdomes to deuine soue-  
rainties. In this Silver Cradle of the world, Arts were bozne,  
and Trades put to nurse. Time hauing now got silver haire on  
his head (but as yet it was not bald) prouided himselfe of a sickle  
and a glasse full of sand: with the one did he teach men how to de-  
uide the seasons into quarters, moneths, weekes, dayes and  
houres: with the other, how to cut downe Cozne: For foure  
Princes did now by course rule the yeare: two of them mild, two  
of them cruell: two of them were liberall, full of mirth, full of ma-  
festie, full of beauty: the other two were hard fauour'd, dogged,  
addicted to malancholly, to diseases, to hate mankind, to hurt the  
earth, and to rob that both of all that the former two had giuen to  
them. This Silver-age of the world, was the worlds Child-  
hood, and therefore like a childe it grew wepward and inconstant:  
It was apt to fall out, and sone to bee pleased, as you may see the  
whelps of Lions wanton at first, and ready to play even with  
infants, and not to harme them, with whom afterwards armed  
men dare not encounter. So in this second play vpon the great  
Theater of the world, men shewed like shepheards (simple) they  
had power to doe hurt, but not a will to doe it: a care they had  
moze to prouide for themselves, then to inuile others. At this  
silver-threed of mans life had still beene spun, man had liued in a  
reasonable happines. But the Fates (envious eues of his good) cut  
it off;

4 seasons of  
the yeare.

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e Brazen

it off; and at the last, in stead of this silver maske which the world woze, did she (being turnd strumpet) put on a Brazen face. Having that on, she grew impudent, lascivious and lustfull, yet was she not altogether past modestie, but fell into the company of Uices, and so at length into a lone of them, being rather deceived with the goodly shapcs they carryed, then delighted with their doings.

This was the lusty age of the world, when men knew their strengthes, and had desire to trie them: their vclnes were full of blood, and itched to be let out: But war was not yet begotten. And as in a ciuill kingdome, when Sedition is deuising plots how to set the state in an vpzoze, shee looketh wildeely, walkes distractedly, and speakes ambignously: her very face seruing as a Calendar, wherein men may reade what Rozmes shall follow, the time when they shall fall, or how, or where, is not set dozone. So at this bzzen & third round table of the world (who in her bosom was hatching vs countries) did men sit with countenances, wherein were ingrauen the pictures of troubled thoughts, which told that mischiefes were apt to bzcd there, though to bee bozne in another Age. The winds did now but begin to shake the earth, the ship-wozack which it should suffer, was to be after wards: so long therefore as the world rested vpon this bzzen pillar, men did but wbet their swozds: there was an Iron gate to be opened, at which Warre should issue forth, and then was the time to strike.

e Yron

Quickly therefore was this circle of Masse broken in pieces, the glasse of this Third age was sone runne out, and in the place of it was the Iron age turnd vp, the Iron age is that wherein we line: it is the old age of the world that must bzng the world to a grane: it is the last of foure, and the worst of foure: it is the basest, yet the proudest. In this Iron bed of Tyne what vnnaturall ingendyrings, what preposterous births haue there bene? Deuotion hath layne with Hypocrisie, Zeale with Colbnesse, Justice with Partialitie, Valoz with Furie, Learning with Pride, Pride with Ambition, Ambition with Treason, and Treason with Murper.

In this bed was Auarice bozne, monstrous in shape, and diuclish in conditions: her fingers are hokes, which Avarers still are tyling



spring to keepe more sharpe then Taylors needles. In one hand  
shee holdes a line-bush, in the other a net, a company of olde red-  
nosed fellows (of all trades some) spreading Brawling continually  
vpon the one, and with strong Cordes still peeing up the o-  
ther. Shee whisper euerie morning in a Lawyers eare, what  
shee saies none knowes, but some thinke shee teaches him his  
prayers: shee goes attired like a Brokers wife, for her appayell  
is made of severall parcels, which by violence she hath toane from  
sundry backes: shee sits vpon gold, as the strange doeb  
vpon Iron: and drinks flax faster doome her crame-like throat  
than an English Cockatrice doth Epithoras.

With this ill-faoured hag came enate into the world: they  
both are twins, and both looke like Starcelings: in bodies they  
some what resemble one another, but differ in minds, for the one  
couets to haue all to her selfe, the other cares for nothing: but  
pines away to the bare bones, with very griefe and madnesse, to  
see another enjoy any thing.

The last of all these two furies (Envy) was begotten by a plorer  
that makes her to leane: the other by a Dutch Burger, and that  
makes her haue such a belly. Now was the time (whilst this  
Pionmilles of mischief were going) for war to set at the Anale,  
whilst Swords, Billes, Pole-axes, Partizans, Guns, &c. were  
forged to destroy mankind: for till this rushe Iron world came  
vp, there was not an Armozer to be had for loue or money. Pre-  
sently vpon this private quarrels were first pickt, which after-  
wards burst out into open maine battails: those battels haue  
druene whole kingdomes into faction, and those factions like so  
many fires, haue set the whole world in a combustion, but be-  
cause Nations were so doubled one from another by the Seas  
(which lay like barres betwene them) Cobetousnesse and Ambi-  
tion laid their hands together and invented Whippes.

Now was the Renard Duke (the King of the Forrest)  
who had stood so many yeares vnshaken and vnblissonoured,  
laide groneling on the ground: the mountaines that before were  
glad to see his foot-stoles, and were euen proud when hee stood  
by right on their backes, did now send forth grownes at the report  
of his fall.

His Daken boyes must notwithstanding be incrowd:

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his aged body dismantled of his robes, yea his very heart cleft spitefully in sunder, whilst his strong and tough ribbes bee puld from his sides, to make a Pageant that shall dance on the Waters.

And now the Duke alone felt the misery of these great stroaks, but the tall fir-tree was compeld likewise to leane the woods, where proudly he had stood so many yeeres, and like a swane to followe a Balle, which way soener it should lead him. With these wooden Castles (which floated vp and downe like so many Townes, or rather like so many little Citties full of People) was the Kingdome of the Waves besieged, her Chyffall Wallles battered, and her treasury rifled: The seap Citizens being terrified with this boldnes of mankind, as hauing neuer seene any creatures but themselves to venture in to their dominions, complained to the Monarch of the Deeper, who in reuenge of this presumption, did not onely sticke Rocks in the plainest pathes of his Kingdome, to make those inuadoys stumble at them, and so to fall headlong into Hell, but also consulted and conspired with the Windes, to be euer working their ouerthrow.

Neither was the Earth (which neuer before felt bruises) free from the blowes and wounds euen of those to whome shee gaue nourishment.

The World being all turnd thus to Iron, mens hearts were made of the same mettall, and like vnnaturall Children misused the Mother of vs all, mangling her bosome, cutting open her belies, and ripping vp her very bowels, compelling her not onely to giue them common food to sustaine them, and fruits and flowers to satiffie their lust and pleasures: But thinking that the Golden and silver woordes were hid in her entrails, euen amongst those do they barbarously rake to find riches. For this cause the Earth that at the beginning was vnto vs as a Mother, shee was herselfe now as a Stepmother, her bze is out of which flowed (once) nothing but milke & honey to nourish vs, swelleth now with rank popson to destroy vs.

But (alas) these moales are but small warts on the cheekes of this Iron world, the great blemishes that make it seeme ugly, are not yet discovered.

Entring therfore into a contemplation of the changes of Time,  
how

how all things that are under the Moone are as variable as her  
lookes are: how Goodnes grows crooked, and hath almost lost  
her shape: how Vertue goes crazely and is not regarded: how  
William Iets in silks, & like a God adored: And when I consider  
how all the pleasures of this life are but as childrens dreams,  
how all the glories of the world are but artificall Fire-works  
that keepe a blazing for a time, and yet dye in smoking smoke,  
and how all the labours of man are like the toyling of the winds,  
which strive to cast up heaps of dust, that in the end are not worth  
the gathering. Then, even then doe I grow weary of my selfe:  
then am I neither in love with the beantie of the Sunne, neither  
stand I gazing at the dancing of the Starres: I neither wonder  
at the stately measures of the cloudes, the nimble galliards of the  
Water, nor the wanton trippings of the winde, nor am delighted  
when the earth dyes her head with flowers, I wish my selfe  
a Beast, because men are so bad, that Beastes do excell them in  
goodnesse, & abhor all company, because the best is but tedious, the  
wooser louthsome, both are the destroyers of time, and both must  
be maintained with cost.

Since then, that in the poorest Kreames there are such  
Whirlpooles to swallow vs up, such Rocks that threaten  
danger (if not ship-wacke,) and such Quick-sandes, to  
make vs sinke: who would not willingly take downe all the  
sailes of his ambition, and cast Anchor on a safe and retired  
shore which is to be found in no place, if not in the Countrey:  
O blessed life! patterne of that which our first Parents ledde,  
the state of Kings (now) being but a slavery to that of  
theirs.

The praise of  
the Countrey  
life.

O schole of contemplation! O thou picture of the whole world,  
drawne in a little compass! O thou prospective glasse, in whom  
we may behold upon earth, all the frame and wonders of heaven!  
How happy (how twice happy) is hee that not playing with his  
wings in the Golden flames of the Court, nor setting his foote  
into the busie throngs of the Citty, nor running up and downe  
in the intricate mazes of the Law, can bee content in the winter  
to sit by a Countrey fire, and in the summer to lay his head on the  
greene pillowes of the earth, where his sleepe shall bee soft sum-  
mers,

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bers, and his workings pleasant as golden dreames. Hast thou  
 a desire to rule? get vnto the mountaines, and thou shalt see the  
 greatest trees stand trembling before thee doe the reverence,  
 those mayest thou call thy poples: thou shalt haue ranks of  
 Dukes on each side of thee, which thou mayest call thy Guard:  
 thou shalt see willowes bending at every blast, whom thou  
 mayest call thy flatterers: thou shalt see vallies humbled at thy  
 feet, whom thou mayest learne thy flanes. Wouldst thou  
 behold battailes? step into the fields, there shalt thou see excel-  
 lent combates betwene the standing Cozne and the Windes.  
 Art thou a tyrant and delightest in the fall of Great ones? must-  
 er then thy harnessers together, and come with those proud  
 Summer Lordes, when they are at the highest. Wouldst  
 thou haue subsidies paid thee? The Plow lends thee in Cozne,  
 the Oxe doo give thee her pasture, the Trees pay custome with  
 their fruit, the Oxe bestowes vpon thee his labour, the shepherds  
 will doe thou call for murther. No pines in the world keepe  
 more than all musicians the Birds are thy consort, and the wind  
 instruments they play vpon, yeld ten thousand tunes. Art thou  
 addicted to studie? Heauen is thy Lybrarie, the Sunne, Moone  
 and Stars are thy Books, and teach thee Astronomie: By ob-  
 serving them thou makest Almanaches to thy selfe that serue for  
 all seasons. What great wastage is thine Ephemerides, out of  
 which thou mayest calculate the predictions of times to followe:  
 yea in the very clouds are written lessons of Humility for thee,  
 to instruct thee in wisdom: the turning ouer their leaues, teach  
 thee the Variations of seasons, and how to dispose thy business  
 for all weathers. If the practise of Physicke delight thee, what  
 Apothekes can all the Doctors in the world set alone more  
 certaine? what rules for good yet can they ysaue out more sin-  
 gular? what medicines for health can they compound more re-  
 storatiue? what vertues can all their Extracted Quintessences  
 infill into our bodies more soueraign, than those which the earth  
 of her owne bountie bestowes for our preservation, and whose  
 working powers are daily experimented in Beasts for our ex-  
 ample, in you plants of the fields, and you flowers of the garden,  
 (natures Apothekes, and Earths Chirurgians) your stalkes  
 are

are slender, yet you your selues are the chiefest pillars that uphold mans life: what cleannes doth the sight receiue only in beholding you: what comfort does the sence of smelling finde only in your Scentes: and how many that haue had halfe their bodies in their graues, haue bene brought backe againe onely by your sacred Juices: Who therfore would not consume his youth in the company of these creatures, that haue power in them to keepe off old age longer then it would: or when old age doth come, are able to giue it the liuelihod and vigour of youth: Who would not rather sit at the foot of an hill tending a flocke of sheepe, then at the helme of Antiochie controuling the Subbozne & unruly multitude: Better it is in the solitarie Woodes, and in the wilde fields, to see a man among beasts, then in the middes of a peopled Citie, to see a beast among men: In the homely village art thou moze safe, then in a fortified Castle: the Rings of Enuy, or the Bullets of Treason, are neuer shot through those thinne walles: Sound healths are drunk out of the wholesome wooden dish, when the cup of golde boyles ouer with popson. The country cottage is neither battred with Cannon in time of warre, nor pestred with clamorous suits in time of Peace. The fall of Cedars that tumble from the toppes of Kingdomes, the Ruine of great houses, that bury families in their ouerthrowe, and the noise of Whiptorches, that degeet euen Asphes in the hearts of Cities, neuer lend their terrors thither: that place stands as safe from the shocks of such violent Stormes, as the Bay-tree does from lightning.

The admiration of these beauties made mee so enamoured, and so really in loue with the inheritor of them, that the flames of my affection were (in their burning) onely carried thither. So that instead of pained streets, I trod the vnbaten pathes of the fields, the ranks of the Trees were to me as great buildings, Lambes and skipping kids, were as my merry companions, the cleare fountaine as my cups of wine, rotes and herbes as the table of an Ordinary, the Dialogues of birds as the Scenes of a Play, and the open empty meadowes as the proud and populous Citie. Thus did I wish to liue, thus to dye: and hauing wandred long (like a Monist) hating men because they

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 dishonoured their creation. At length fortune led mee by the hand into a place so curiously built by nature, as if it had bene the Pallace where shee purposed none should lie but her selfe: It was a Grove set thicke with Trees, which grew in such order, that they made a perfect circle, insomuch that I stood in feare, it was kept by Fayries, and that I was brought into it by enchantment. The branches of the Trees (like so many handes) reached ouer one to another, and in their imbracements held so fast together, that their boughes made a goodly Greene roofo, which being touched by the winde, it was pleasure to behold so large a feeling to moue: vpon euery branch sate a consort of sing-ers, so that euery Tree shewed like a Musicke roome. The floze of this summer-house was pained all ouer with yelow-field flow-ers, and with white and red dayies, vpon which the Sunne cast- ing but a wanton eye, you would haue swozne the one had bene nailles of Gold, the other studdes of enamelled Siluer. Amaz- ed I was when I did but looke into this little Paradiſe, and afraid to enter, doubting whether it were some halloved ground or no, so I could find no path that dyrected me to it: neither the foot of any man, nor the hoſe of any beast had beaten downe the Grasse: so the blades of it stood so hie and so euen, as if their lengthes had bene given them by one measure. The melodye which the Birds made, and the varieties of all sorts of fruites which the Trees promised, with the pretty and harmelesse mur- muring of a halloſe streame, running in windings thzough the middest of it (whose noisse went like a chime of Bells, charming the eyes to sleepe) put mee in minde of that Garden whereof our great Grandfire was the keeper. I euen wept so sorrow to thinke he should be so foolish, as to bee dzenen from a place of such happi- nes, & blamed him in my mind so leaning such a president behind him, because by his fall wee lost his felicity, and by his frailty all men are now apt to vndoe themselves & their posterity thzough the inticements of women.

Into this Grove therefore at last I did venter, resolving to make it the Temple where my thoughts should spend them- selves in fruitfull contemplation: I purposed to diuide the day into acts, as if the ground had bene a stage, and that the life
 which



which there I meant to lead, should haue bene but as a play.

Some of my houres should haue runne out in Speculation of the admirall workmanship of Heauen, and of the orders which the Celestiall bodies are governed by: some of my houres should haue caried me vp and downe the earth, and haue shewne vnto me the qualities and proportions of the creatures that breede vpon it: At another time would I haue written Satyres against the impiety of the world: At another, I would haue chaunted Roundelapes, in honour of the Country life.

The rest of my time should haue fetched in provision for my bodie. These were appointed to be my Aides in this goodly Theater: the Musick betweene were the Singers of the Word, the audience such as Orpheus pleased vnto, and those were Gountaines and Trees, who (vntesse the whispering windes troubled them with their noise) would haue bene very attentive. But whilst I setting forth to runne this Gase, behold, casting vpon mine eye, I espied as farre off certaine cloudes of Smoke, whose vapours ascended vp so blacke and thicke into the Element, as if the fighes of Hell had burst the Bowels of the Earth, and were flying vp towards Heauen, to pull downe more vengeance.

Before I saw this, I believed that this place had bene free from all feare, desirous therefore to learne who they were that neighboured so nee and in a solitarie Wood, (that stood so far from inhabited buildings) I kept forward & came to the place which (what by nature and what by Art) was so fenced about with Trees, quickset hedges and bushes, which were growne so high (that but for the smoke) it was not possible to imagine how a house could there be builded, there was but one path leading to it, which after much searching & many turnings being found, boldly went I on, and arrived at a homely cottage: the very doore of it put me in mind of that poore Inne of good Baucis and Philemon, where a God was a guest, for it was so low, that euen a dwarf might haue seemed a tall man entring into it, so much would it haue made him stoope. This House stood not like Great mens places alwaies shut, but was open, as if bounty had bene the porter, & being within, it seemed Hospitality dwelt there, and had giuen

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giueh you welcome. For there was a Table ready couered, with faire linnen, nut-browne round trenchers lay in good order, with bread and salt, keeping their state in the middle of the board. The roome it selfe was not sumptuous but handsome, of indifferent bignes, but not very large: the windowes were spread with hearbs, the chimney drest vp with graine boughes, and the stowe strewed with balrashes, as if some lasse were that mo:ning to be married: but neither saw I any bzide or bzide-groome, no: heard I any musicke, onely the next roome (which was the kitchen, and into which I went) was there as much stirring, as commonly is to be seene in a Bothe, vppon the first day of the opening of a Fair. Some late turning of spits, and the place being all smoaky, made me thinke on hell, for the ioynts of meat lay as if they had bene bzopling in the infernall fire: the turne spits (who were poore tottered greasse fellows) looking like so many be-devills. Some were basting and seemed like stends potwring scalding oyle vpon the damned: others were micing of ppe-meat, and shewd like hangmen cutting vp of quarters, whilst another whost ries glowed with the heat of the fire, stood poaking in at the mouth of an Ouen, torturing soules as it were in the furnace of Lucifer. There was such chopping of hearbes, such tossing of Wables, such plucking of Geese, such scalding of Pigges, such singling, such scolding, such laughing, such swearing, and such running too and fro, as if Pluto had that day bidden all his friends to a feast, and that these had bene the Cookes that drest the dinner.

At the last clypping an old nimble tongo beldam who seemed to haue the command of the place, to her I steppes, and in faire tearmes requested to know the name of the swelling, why this great there was prouided, and who were the Guests, for as yet I saw no body but this Band of the Blacke Guard. In stead of her tongue, her eyes (that had started backe a good way into her head, as if they durst not looke out) made me an answer. I perceived by her very countenance, that I was not welcome, which afterward she confirmed in words, telling me the place was not for mee, the Feast was for others, and that I must instantly bee gone, for that a strange kinde of people were that day to bee merrie

merry there. So Rethoricke that I could vse, had power to win her to discover who these Guests should be, til at the length a Wife preuailing moze then a Parlee, she told me I should bee a Spectator of the Comedy in hand, and in a private gallerie behold all the Actors, vpon condition I would sit quietly and say nothing. And for that purpose was I conuaid into an upper loft, where (vntene) I might (throught a wooden lattice that had prospect of the dining roome) both see and heare all that was to be done or spoken.

There lay I like a Scout to discover the coming of the expected enemy, who was to set vpon this goodcheare, and to batter downe the Wallles of hot Dyes and Pasties. Mine eyes euen ake with staring towards the doore, to see when these States should enter, duckling downe with their heads like so many Geese going into a Barne. At length (with bagge and baggage) they came dropping in one after another, sometimes three in a company, sometimes five, now moze, now lesse, till in the end the great Hall was so full that it swarmed with them. Know you wonder, and haue longing thoughts to know what Generation this is, that lined in this hospitable familiarity: but let me tell you they are a people for whom the world cares not, neither care they for the world: they are all freemen, yet scarce to live in Cities; great trauellozs they are, and yet neuer from home: wise they are, and yet haue their dyet from the best mens Tables: They are neither old Seruingmen (for all I say they are poze) that haue been Courtiers, and are now past carying of cloake-bags: nor pong gallants that haue serued in the low Countries, (albeit many of them go vpon wooden legs) nor hungry scholars, that all their life time haue kept a wangling in the schools, and in the end are glad to teach Children their Rorke booke: neyther are they decayed Poets, whose wits like a sales Land, hold out but a twelue month, and then they line vpon the scraps of other mens inuention: no nor players they be, who out of an ambition to weare the best Jerking (in a strolwing company) or to act great parts, forsake the stately and our moze then Roman Little Stages, to trauelle vpon the hard houle from village to village for cheese and butter-milk: neither are they any of those terrible noises (with thyed bare cloakes) that line by red lattises and Jay-bushes, hauing authority to thrust into any mans

C

roome,

## The Bel-man

rome, onely speaking this, Will you haue any Quastike :  
 Neither are they Citizens, that haue bene blowne vp (without  
 Gunpowder) and by that meanes haue bene free of the Gate at  
 Ludgate, some five times : no, no, this is a Cing of goodfellowes  
 in whom there is moze Brother hood. This is a Crew that is not  
 the Damned Crew, (for they walke in Sattin) but this is the  
 Ragged Regiment : Villaines they are by birth, Warlets by edu-  
 cation, Binares by profession, Beggars be the statute, and Rogues  
 by act of Parliament. They are the idle diones of a Countrie,  
 the Caterpillers of a Common wealth, and the Egyptian llee of  
 a Kingdome. And albeit that at other times their attire was  
 fitting to their trade of liuing, yet now were they all in handsome  
 cleane linnen, because this was one of their Quarter dinners, for  
 you must vnderstand, that (as afterward I learnt by intelligence)  
 they hold these solempne meetings in foure seuerall seasons of the  
 yeare at least, and in seuerall places to auoyd discovery.

The whole assembly being thus gathered together, One a-  
 mongst the rest, who toke vpon him a Sensozity ouer the rest,  
 charged euery man to answer to his name, to see if the Jury were  
 full : The Bill by which hee meant to call them being a double  
 Jug of ale (that had the spirit of Aquavice in it, it smelt so strong)  
 and that he held in his hand : Another standing by with a toast  
 Rutiege and Ginger : ready to cry Vous sauez as they were cald,  
 and all that were in the roome hauing single pots by the eares  
 which like Pistols were charged to goe off so soone as euer they  
 heard their names. This Ceremony being set abroach, an O-  
 yes was made : But he that was Rector Chory (the Captain  
 of the Tatterdemalsons) spying one to march vnder his Colours,  
 that had neuer before serued in these lawlesse warres, payed a-  
 while (after hee had taken his first draught, to tast the verticity of  
 the liquor) and then began (Justice like) to examine this Ponger  
 Brother vpon Interrogatozies.

The first question he demanded, was, if hee were stalled to the  
 Rogue or no : The poze Hungarin answered yes, hee was :  
 Then was hee asked by whom he was stalled, and to where, and  
 in what manner of complement it was done : To which questi-  
 on the nouice hauing not so much beggerly knowledg as might  
 make a learned reple, forthwith did the wicked Elder commaund  
 the young Slaunions, that stood about him, to discurnish him that  
 was

was so braskillfull in the Rudiments of Rogery, of his best garment, and to carry it presently to the Bowling Men (that was to say, to the Tapp house) and there to patrone it for so much strong Ale, as could be ventured vpon it. Thus the chiefe Rag-a-mus-sen gaue in charge, the rest obeyed and did so, whilst the other suffered himselfe to bee stript, and durst not resist their base authority.

This done, the Grand Signior called for a Gage of Bowse, which belike signified a quart of drinke, for presently a pot of Ale being put into his hand, he made the young Squire kneel down, and pouring the full pot on his pate, uttered these words:

I doa stalle thee to the Rogue, by vertue of this Soueraigne English liquor, so that henceforth it shall bee lawfull for thee to Cant (that is to say) to bee a Vagabond and begge, and to speake that Pedlers French, or that Canting language, which is to bee found among none but Beggars: With that the stalled Gentleman rose, all the rest in the roome hanging vpon him for joy, like so many dogs about a Beare, and leaping about him with howles, like so many mad men.

But a Silence being proclaimed, all were hushed, whilst Men that played the Master Deuils part amongst these Hell hounds, after a Shugge or two giuen, thus began to speake to him that was new entred into the damned fraternity: Brother Begger, quoth hee, because thou art yet but a meere freshman in our Colledge, I charge thee to hang thine eares to my lips, and to learne the orders of our house, which thou must obserue, vpon paine eyther to bee beaten with our cudgels, the next time thou art met, or els to bee stript out of any garments that are worth the taking from thee. First therfore (being no better then a plaine ordinary Rogue, marry in time thou mayest rise to more pferment amongst vs) thou art not to wander vp and downe all Countreies, but to walke onely like an Under-keeper of a Forrest, in that quarter which is allotted vnto thee: Thou art likewise to giue way vnto any of vs that haue bozn all the offices of the Mallet before thee, and vpon holding vp a finger to annoy any Towne, or Country Village, where thou seest wee are foraging to victuall our army that march along with vs: For (my poore Williaso) thou must know, that there are degrees of Superiority and Inferiority in our Society, as there

are in the proudest company. We haue amongst vs som eighten or nineteene seuerall offices for men, and about seven or eight for women: The chiefeest of vs are called Wpight-men. O my dære Sun-burnt-brother, if all those that are the chiefeest men in other companies were Wpight-men too, what good dealing would there be in all Occupations: The next are Rufflers: then haue we Anglers, but they seldom catch fish, till they goe by westward for flounders: then are there Rogues (which liue by thou thy selfe wearest) next are wilde Rogues, then Wiggers, then Palliards, then Fraters, then Tom of Bedlams band of mad caps, other wise called Moze Toms flocke of wilde-gese. (whom here thou seest by his blacke and blew naked armes to bee a man beaten to the world) and those wild Gese or haire-bzaines are called Abraham-men: in the next Squadron march our bzauie Whip-jacks, at the taile of them come cratoling our counterfeitt Crankes: in another troupe are Gabling Dromerers, then Curtals follow at their heeles, and they bying along with them strange Engineers, called Irish Toples: After whom follow the Swigmen, the Farkmen, the Patricoes, and last, the Binchincoes. These are the totterd Regiments, that make up our mayne Army. The Victualers to the Campe are Women, and of those, some are Plymerers, some Watow-Baskets, some Aulsem-mozts; others Walking-Ports, some Dories, others are Dels: the last and least are called Binchin-Ports, with all which Comrades, thou shalt in thy beggerly peregrination, meete, conuerse, and be dzunke, and in a short time know their natures and rogish conditions without the helpe of a Lutoy. At these wordes the Victuals came smoaking into the Hall to bee set vpon the board, whereupon the whole swarme squatted downe, being as vnquill in manners, as vnhandsome in apparrell, onely the Wpight-men and Rufflers had the grace of the board giuen them, and sate at vpper end of the table: the rest tooke their trenchers as they hapned into their hands, yet so, that euery knaue had his queane close by his side.

The Table being thus furnished both with Guests and meate, in head of Grace, euery one dzets out a knife, rapt out a round oath, and cryed Wsoface, you mad Rogues, and so fell too. They fed moze hungerly, then if they had come from the siege of Ierusalem: not a word was heard among them for a long time.



only their teeth made a noise, as if so many Mills had bene grinding. Kats going to the assault of a Holland Cheese could not more valiantly lay about them: nay, my L. Palors bounds at the dog-house, being bidden to the funerall banquet of a dead Horse, could not pick the bones cleaner. At length when the platters begonne to looke leane, and their bellies grew plump, then went their tongues: But such a noise made they, such a confusion was there of beggerly tales, some babling in their Canting language, others in their owne, that the scolding at ten conduits, and the gossiping of sixteen bake-houses was delicate musicke to it. At the length, drunken healthes railed vp and downe the Table, and then it would haue made a Physitian himselfe sicke, but to haue looked vpon the waters that came from them. The whole room shewed a faire off (but that there was heard such a noise) like a Dutch piece of Wallerie, for they sat at Table as if they had bene so many Antiques: A Painters apprentice could not draw worse faces then they themselves made, besides those which God gave them: no, nor a Painter himselfe vary a Picture into more strange & more ill fauoured Creatures than were to be seene in the action of their bodies: for some did nothing but weepe and protest loue to their Ports, another stroge daggers and knives to cut the throate of his Dorpe, if he found her tripping: Some slept being dronke so depe in Ale-drugs, that they answered againe: others sang bawdy songs: another crew deuised curses vpon Iustices of Peace, Headboroughs and Constables, grinning their teeth so hard together for anger, that the grating of a saw in a Stonecutters yard, when it filed in sunder the ribs of marble, makes not a more horrible noise. In the end, one who took vpon him to be speaker to the whole house, blouding the French and English pore on their yelping throates, cryed out for silence, telling them it was his turne (according to the Customes of their meeting) to make an Oracion in praise of Beggerie, and of those that professe the Trade: Whereupon (as if an Owle had hapned amongst so many Birds) all their eyes did presently stare vpon him, who thus began.

My Noble hearts, old Weather-beaten fellows, and brave English Spirits, I am to giue you that which all the Land knowes you justly deserue (a Roguish commendation) and you shall haue it, I am to giue Beggers their due praise.

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yet what neede I doe that, sithence no man (I thinke) will take any thing from them that is their due. To bee a Beggar, is to bee a Bzaire man, because tis now in fashion for very bzair men to beg: but what a Rogue am I to build vp your honours vpon examples? Do wee not all come into the world like arrant Beggars, without a rag vpon vs: do wee not all goe out of the world like Beggars, sauing onely an olde sheete to cover vs: and shall wee not walke by and downe in the world like Beggars, with olde blankets pind about vs: yes, yes, wee will roared all the Hennell as though it had bene the Dogs of Paris Garden: Peace, cryes the Penitente Dratoz, and with a Hem proceeds.

What though there bee Statutes to burne vs in the eares for Rogues: to singe vs ith hands for Pilferers: to whip vs at posts for being Beggars, and to hackle our heeles ith Stockes for being Magabonds? What of this? Are there no other Statutes moze sharpe then these to punish the rest of the Subjects, that scozne to bee our companions? what though a prating Constable, or a red nosed Weale say to one of vs, Arra Goodman Rogue, if I serued you well I should see you whipped through the town: Alas, alas, filly Animals, if all men should haue that which they deserue, wee should do nothing but play the Executioners and Torturers one of another.

A number of Maploz would bee damned for keeping a Bel binder their Shoppe: all the Boakers would make their Willies at Epizone, if the searching for stolen goods which they haue receiued, should like a plague but once come amongst them: yea if all were serued in their right kind, two parts of the land should be whipped at Whoreswell for Lechery, and three parts (at least) be set ith Stockes for Drunkenesse. The life of a Begger is the life of a Souldier: he suffers hunger and cold in Winter, and heat and thirst in Summer, hee goes to warre, he goes lame, hee is not rewarded, hee is not rewarded: Here onely shines his glozy, the whole Kingdome is but his Walke, a whole City is but his Parish, in euery mans kitchen is his meat drest, in euery mans Soller lies his Beere, and the best mens purses keepe a penny for him to spend.

Since then the profession is ancient (as hauing bene from the beginning) and so generall, that all sorts of people make it their last refuge: Since a number of Artificers maintaine their houses

houses by it, since we and many a Thousand more live merrily  
with it, let vs my bzaue Tawny-faces, not giue vp our patched  
cloaks, nor chage our coppies, but as we came beggars out of our  
mothers bellies, so resolute and set vp your stanes vpon this, to  
returne like beggars into the bowels of the earth, Dixi.

Scarcely was the word Dixi belch'd out of his rotten Applange,  
but all the Bench-whistlers from one end to the other, gave a  
ringing Plaudite to the Epilogue of his speech, in signe of appro-  
bation: whereupon they arose vp as confusedly as they sat down,  
and hauing paid so far as their purses would stretch for what they  
had deuoured, making Dea in chalie for the rest when they met  
there next, and every man with his Port being assigned to their  
quarter, with order giuen, at what following faires to shake  
hands, and what Ale-bush to tipple, with I rems likewise giuen  
where to strike downe Geese, where to steale Hens, & from what  
hedges to fetch sheets, that may serue as paines, away they  
departed.

Turba Grauis paci, placidæq; inimica Quietis. To be  
so: sooner were their backs turned, but I that all this while  
had stood in a corner (like a watching Candle) to see all their vil-  
lanies, appeared in my likeness: and finding the Coast to bee  
perfectly cleere, none remaining in the house but the Hostesse to  
these Guests, her did I summon to a second parlee. The spi-  
rit of her owne maule walkt in her bzaie-paie, so that, what with  
the sweetnes of gaines which shee had gotten by her Merchant  
Venturers, and what with the fumes of drinke, which (like a  
lustie gale to a wind mill) set her tongue in going, I found her  
apt for talke, and taking hold of this opportunity, after some in-  
treaty to discouer to mee what these Vp-right-men, Rufflers and  
the rest were, with their severall qualities and manners of life:  
Thus shee began.

An Vp-right-man.

**Y**ou shall vnderstand then (quoth shee) that the cheifest of  
those that were my Table-men to day, are called Vp-right-  
men, whose Picture I will draw to the life before you: An  
Vp-right-man is a Sturdy Wig-bonde Bnaue, that ne-  
uer

ner walkes but (like a commander) with a most franchise in his hand, which becalms his filch-man. At markets, faires, & other meetings, his voyce among Beggers is of the same sound that a Constables is of: it is not to be controuled. Hee is free of all the Shires in England, but neuer stays in any place long, the reason is, his profession is to bee idle, which being looked into, hee knowes is punishable, and therfore to avoid the whip, hee wanders. If he come to a Farmers doore, the almes hee begges is neither meat nor drinke, but onely mony: If any thing else bee offered to him, hee takes it with disdain, and laies it vnder a hedge for any that come next: but in reuenge of this, if hee spie any geese, hens, duckes, or such like walking spirits haunting the house, with them hee conjures about midnight, be sing them the next morning like traitors, either beheading them or quartering them in pieces: for which purpose, this band of Upright-men seldome march without five or sixe in a company, so that Country people rather giue them mony for feare, then out of any deuotion. After this bloody massacre of the poore innocent pulle, the Actors in their bloody Tragedie, repair to their stalling-kennes, and these are tipling houses, which will lend mony vpon any stollen goods, and vnto which none but such guests as these resort: there the spits goe round, and the cans walke vp and downe: there haue they their Doyts & their Doyles, with whom (after they haue bowed profoundly) they lye (in stead of Featherbeds vpon litters of cleane straw) to encrease the Generations of Rogues and Beggars: For these Upright-men stand so much vpon their reputation, that they scoone any Doyt or Doyle should be seene to walke with them: and indeed what need they care for them, when hee may command any Doyle to leaue another man, and to lye with him: the other not daring to murmur against it.

An Upright-man will seldome complaine of want, for whatsoever any one of his profession both steale, hee may challenge a share in it, yea, and may command any inferiour Rogue to fetch in booty to serue his turne. These carry the shapes of souldiers, and can talke of the Low-Countries, though they neuer were beyond Douer,

A Ruffler.

**T**he next in degree to him is called a Ruffler: the Ruffler and the Up-right-man are so like in conditions, that you would sweare them brothers: they walke with cudgels alike, they professe Armes alike, though they be both out at elbows, and will sweare they lost their limbes in their Countries quarrell, when either they are lame by diseases, or haue bene mangled in some drunken quarrell: These commonly are fellows that haue stood aloofe in the warres, and whilst others fought, they toke their heels, and ranne away from their Captaine, or else they haue bene Seruingmen, whom for their behauiour, no man would trust with a Luery: if they cannot spend their daies to their minds, by their owne begging or robbing of Country people that come late from markets (for vpon those they most vsually exercise their trade) then doe they compell the inferiour subjects of their common wealth (as Rogues, Pallards, Poets, Dorises, &c.) to pay tribute vnto them. A Ruffler after a yeare or two, takes state vpon him, and becomes an Upright-man, (but no honest man.)

An Angler.

**A**n Angler is a limbe of an Upright-man, as being deriued from him: their apparell in which they walke is commonly frieze Jerkins and gally slops: In the day time they begge from house to house, not so much for reliefe, as to spie what lyes fitte for their nets, which in the night following they fish for. The Rodde they angle with, is a staffe of five or sixe foote in length, in which, within one inch of the top is a little hole boared quite through, into which hole they put an iron hooke, and with the same doe they angle at Windowes about midnight: the draught they pluck vp being apparel, waies, conerlets, or whatsoever their iron hookes can lay hold of: which prize when they haue gotten, they doe not presently make sale of it, but after foure or five dayes, or according as they suspect inquirie will be made after it, doe they bring such goods to a Broker (traded vp for the purpose) who lends vpon them

## The Bellman

halfe so much money as they be worth, which notwithstanding serues the Angler a while for spending money, and enriches him that buyes it for a long time after.

A Rogue.

**A** Rogue is knowne to all men by his name, but not to all men by his conditions: no Whittaker can dissemble more then hee, for he will speake in a lamentable tune, and cravle along the Streets, (supporting his body by a staffe) as if there were not life enough in him to put strength into his legs: his head shall be bound about with linnen, loathsome to behold, and as filthy in colour as the complexion of his face: his apparell is all tattered, his bosome naked, and most commonly no shirt on: not that they are vtuen to this misery by meere want, but that if they had better cloathes giuen them, they would rather sell them to some of their own fraternity then weare them, and wander vp and downe in that pittious manner, onely to moue people to compassion, and so be releued with money: which being gotten, at night is spent as merily and as lewdely, as in the day it was wonne by counterfeitt villany.

Another Sect there be of these, and they are called Sturdy Rogues: These walke from Countrey to Countrey vnder colour of traouelling to their friends, or to finde out some kinsman, or else to deliuer some letter to one Gentleman or other, whose name he will haue fairely endozed on paper, coulerd vp for that purpose, and handsomely sealed: others vse this shift, to carry a Certificate or Pasport about them, with the hand and seale of some Iustice to it, giuing notice how he hath been whipp'd for a Vagabond, according to the lawes of the Realme, and that he is now to returne to such a place where he was borne, or dwell last by a certain day limited, which is sure to be set downe long enough, for all these writings are but counterfeitt: they haue amongst them (of their owne Rank) that can write and read, who are their Secretaries in this businesse. These fellows haue fingers as nimble as the Up-right-man, and haue their Wenches and meeting places, where whatsoeuer they get, they spend, and whatsoeuer they spend is to satisfie their lust: some of this kinde are called Curtalls, because they weare



## of London.

weare thost Cloakes : their company is dangerous, their liues detestable, and their ends miserable.

### A wilde Rogue.

**T**he same Rogue begets a wilde Rogue, and this is a spirit that cares not in what circle he rises, nor into the company of what Diuels he falls : In his swadling clouts is he marked to be a villaine, and in his breeding is instructed to be so : The mother of him (who was deliuered of her burden vnder a hedge,) eyther traueilling with him at her backe, or else leading him in her hand, and will rather indure to see his bzaines beaten out then to haue him taken from her, to bee put to an honest course of life : So enutous are they, and so much doe they scorne any profession but their own: they haue been Rogues themselves, and disdaine that their children should be otherwise. These wilde Rogues (like wilde Geese) keepe in flocks, and all the day lopter in the fieldes (if the weather be warme,) and at Wick-killes, or else disperse themselves in cold weather, to Rich mens dozes, and at night haue their meetings in barnes, or other out places, where (twenty or more in a company) they engender Male and female, euery one catching her whom he doth best fancie, the stronger and more sturdy keeping the weaker in subjection: their language is bawdy talke, damned oathes and plots where to filch the next morning, which they performe betimes, rising as early as the Sunne, and enioyning their Punks to looke out for cheates, to make their meeting at night the merrier.

### A Prigger of Prancers.

**A** Prigger of Prancers is a horse-stealer, for Prig signifies in the Canting language to steale, and Prancer signifies a Horse. These walke (in frieze or leather Jerkins) with a wand in their hands, watching in what pasture any horses are fit for their turne, and those within thre or foure nights after are conuayed away at the least fifty miles from the place: if they meete the owners in their ground, they haue shifts to auoide his suspicion, by saying they haue lost their way to such a Towne,

## The Bel-man

These Hackney men that let out Horses, will require seruice at Gentlemens houses, their skill being to keepe a Gelding well, and if they get entertainment, they stand to their Word, for they keepe the Gelding so well, that his Passer shall neuer finde fault with any disease hee hath, vntill it be that hee had the dizziness in his head, which made him reele out of his stable to be sold forty miles off at a fayre. These haue their semall Spies that suruey Spedowes and Clofes, and long only for horse flesh.

## A Palliard.

**A** Palliard comes next into my mind, and he likewise is called a Clapperdudgeon: his upper garment is an olde cloake made of as many peeces patched together, as there be villanies in him: This Palliard neuer goes without a Pozt at his heeles whom he calls his wife. Being either in the Streete of a City, or in a Country Village, they diuide themselves, and beg almes at severall dozes, but whatsoeuer is gotten (be it bread, cheese, malt or wooll) they sell it to some Rogue or other, and with the money are merry at a Bousing Ben. A Palliard carries about him (for feare of the wozt) a Certificate (vnder a Ministers hand, with the Parishes name, which shall be sure to stand farre enough) where this Pozt and he were married, when all is but forged. Many Irishmen are of this lowly Regiment, and some Welchmen: And the better there to draw pittie from men, as also to giue colour to their lame wandying, with Sperewozt or Arsenicke will they in one night popson their Legge, be it neuer so sound, and raise a blister, which at their pleasure they can take off againe.

## A Frater.

**A** Frater is a brother of as damned a brode as the rest: his office is to travell with a long wallet at his backe, and a blacke boye at his girdle, wherein is a Patent to beg for some Hospitall or Spittle house: many of which Patents (especially if they be in paper or Parchment without the Great Seale) are counterfeit. And those that are not so, serue the bearers of them  
but

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but as instruments to play the Binaues by : for though they get  
nener so much, the poze creatures for whom they begge, receive  
little of it : they lye soaking with a Doyle in a Tippling house,  
whilest the Spittle wretches are ready to sterue for sustenance at  
home : let country women returning from markets, if they bee  
alone, and in a dangerous place, take heed of these Doctors, for  
they haue the art to vnhorse them, and a conscience to send them  
packing without any penny in their purses.

A Quire bird.

**Y**our Quire-birds are such as haue sung in such Cages as  
Newgate, or a Country Gaole : and hauing their belles gi-  
uen them to sitte, they seeke presently to build their nests vnder  
some honest mans roole, not with intent to bring him in any pro-  
fit, but onely to put themselves into money or apparell (though it  
be by filching) and then they take their flight,

An Abraham man.

**O**f all the mad rascals (that are of this wing) the Abraham-  
man is the most fantasticke : The fellow (quoth this  
olde Lady of the Lake vnto me) that late halfe naked (at Ta-  
ble to day) from the Circle vptward, is the best Abraham-  
man that euer came to my house, and the notablest Villaine :  
he sweares he hath bene in Bedlam, and will talke fran-  
tickly of purpose : you see pinnes stuck in sundry places of his  
naked flesh, especially in his armes, which paine he gladly puts  
himselfe to (being indeed no torment at all, his skinne is either  
so dead with some soule disease, or so hardened with weather :  
onely to make you beleue he is out of his wits) hee calls him-  
selfe by the name of Wooze Tom, and comming neare any body  
cries out, Wooze Tom is a cold. Of these Abraham men,  
some be exceeding merry, and doe nothing but sing songs, fa-  
shioned out of their owne bzaines : some will dance, others will  
doe nothing but epyther laugh or wepe, others are dogged, and  
so fallen both in loke and speech, that spying but a small compa-  
ny in a house, they boldly and bluntly enter, compelling the ser-  
uants through feare to giue them what they demand, which

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is commonly Bacon, or something that will yeld ready money. The Upright-man, and the Rogue are not terrible enemies to Poultry ware, then poze Tom is: neither does any man shift cleane linnen oftner then he does his Wenches.

### A Whipjacke.

**T**hen there is another sort of nimble fingered Knaves, and they are called Whipjacks: who talks of nothing but fights at Sea, Piracies, Downings, and Shipwracks, traueilling both in the Shapes and names of Partners, with a counterfeist Licence to begge from towne to towne, which licence they call a Cybe, and the seales to it Farkes. Their colour of wandring from Shire to Shire (especially along the Sea coasts) is to hearken after their Shippe that was ouerthrowne, or for the Parchandize stollen out of her: but the end of their Land voyages is to rob Boths at sayes, which they call heauing of the Both. These Whipjacks will talke of the Indies, and of all Countries that lye vnder heauen, but are indeede no moze but freshwater Souldiers.

### A Counterfeist Cranke.

**A**fter in habit, and moze vile in condition then the Whipjacke, is the Counterfeist Cranke, who in all kinde of weather, going halfe naked, staring wildly with his eyes, and appearing distracted by his looks, complaining onely that he is troubled with the falling sicknesse: Albeit you giue them cloathes they will weare none, but rather with those ragges which they haue hanging about them should be made loathsome by myze, or their naked Bosome and Armes to appeare full of bryses, and to be bloody with falling, thereby to kinde in men the greater compassion: to cause that foaming in their mouths (which is fearefull to behold by the standers by) they haue this trickes, pryntly to conuay a pece of white soape into one corner of their Iaiues, which causeth the froth to come bopling forth. These Crancks haue likewise their meetings, and their Wenches at command.

of London: **A Dummerar**, is a man that is called so because he is a counterfeiter of money.

**E**uall to the Cranke in dissembling, is the Dummerar, for as the other takes vpon him to haue the falling sicknesse, so this, counterfeits Dummess; but let him be whispped well, and his tongue (which he doubles in his mouth, and so makes a horrid and strange noyse, instead of speech) will walke as fast as his hands do, when he comes where any booty is.

**A Jackman and a Patrico**, are two names of the same person.

**A**d because no common wealth can stand without some learning in it, Therefore are there some in this Schoole of Beggers, that practise writing and reading, and these are called Jackmen: yea, the Jackman is so cunning sometimes, that he can speake Latine: which learning of his lifts him vp to advancement, for by that meanes he becomes Clarke of their Hall, and his office is to make counterfeits, licences, which are called Cybes, to which he puts seales, and these are called Jackes. This Jackman (for his knowledge) to haue fellowe tooke met with a Patrico, who amongst Beggers is their Priest, every hedge being his Parish, every wandring Harlot and Rogue his Parishioners, the seruice he sayes, is only the marrying of couples, which he does in a wood vnder a tree, or in the open field, and the solemnity of it is this: The parties to be wedded, find out a dead horse, or any other beast, and standing one on the one side, and the other on the other, the Patrico bids them to lye together till death them part, and so shaking hands, the wedding dinner is kept at the next Alehouse they sturble into, where the musique is nothing but knocking with Canies, and their dances none but drunken Bawles.

The Ceremony of marryinge rogues vnder a hedge.

**An Irish Toyle**, is a net made of straw, and is used to catch the Irish Toyle.

**I**n this Forrest of Wild men, the safest Toyle is pitch is the Irish Toyle, which is a net so strongly and cunningly wouen together, that they who goe a hunting with it, catch the Com.

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**194** Common wealth, and Connycatch the Subjects: for an Irish Doyle is a sturdy vagabond, who scorning to take paines that may make him sweat, stalkes onely vp and doونه the Country with a Walleet at his backe, in which he carries laces, pins, points, and such like, and vnder colour of Telling such Tales; both passeth to and fro quietly, and so commits many villanies as it were by warrant.

### A Swig-man.

**L**ike vnto him in conditions is a Swigman or Pedler, carrying a pack behind him instead of a Walleet: their Trades are all one, saving that the Swigman is somewhat better in behaviour, though little differing in honesty. They both stand in feare of the Upright-man, and are forced oftentimes to pay him foale out of their packages.

### A kinch in Coe.

**T**he last ranke of these Runnagates is fill'd vp with Kinchen Coes: and they are little boyes, whose parents (having bene Beggars) are dead, or else such as haue run away from their Masters, and in stead of a Trade to liue by, follow this kind of life to be lovsse by. These Kinchens the first thing they doe, is to learne how to Cant, and the onely thing they practise is to craepe in at Windows or Celler dories.

Thus haue I opened vnto you halfe the nest of this generation of Wipers: now will I discover the other halfe, wherein sits a broode of Serpents, as dangerous and as loathsome as these: of which the young ones, and the least, are called Kinchsta-Pozts, and those are Girles of a yeare or two old, which the Pozts (their Mothers) carry at their backs in their slates, (which in the Canting tongue are shetes) if they haue no children of their owne they will steale them from others, and by some meanes disfigure them, that by their parents they shall neuer be known. The second Bird of this feather is a Dell, and that is a young wench ripe for the Act of Generation, but as yet not spoiled of her mayden-head: these Dells are reserued as Witches for the Upright-men, for none but they must haue the first taff

Kinchin  
ort.

Dell.

of



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of them, and after the Wp-rightmen have bedozed them, (which commonly is when they are very young) then are they free for any of the Brother-hood, & are called Wels no more, but Dories. Of these Wels some are termed Wilde-dels, and those are such as are bozne and begotten vnder a hedge: the other are young wenches that either by death of Parents, the villany of Executors, or the cruelty of Pastors or Mistresses fall into this infamous and damnable course of life. When they have gotten the title of Dories, then are they common for any, and walke for the most part with their betters, (who are a degre above them) called Pozts, but whensoever an Wp-right-man is in pzenence, the Dorie is onely at his command. These Dories will for god victuall or a small pece of money, prostitute their bodies to seruicing-men if they canget into any convenient corner about their Pastors houses, and to Ploughmen in Barnes, Haylofts or Stables: they are common pick-pockets, familiars with the baser sorts of cut-purses, and oftentimes secret murderers of those Infants which are begotten of their bodies. These Dories have one speciall badge to be knowne by, for most of them goe working of laces and shirt strings, or such like stufte, onely to giue colour to their idle wandering.

A Doric.

Of Pozts there be two kinds, that is to say, a walking mozt and an Autem mozt: the Walking mozt is of more antiquitie than a Dorie, and therefore of more knauerie: they both are unmarried, but the Dorie prolesses her selfe to be a maide, (if it come to examination) and the Walking mozt sayes: she is a widow, whose husband died either in the Portugall voyage, was slaine in Ireland, or the Low Countries, or came to his end by some other misfortune, leaving her so many small Infants on her hand in debt, whom not being able by her honest labour to maintaine, she is compelled to begge. These Walking mozts traueil from Country, to Country, making laces vpon staves, & small purses, and now and then white vallances for beds: Subtill queanes they are, hard hearted, light singred, cunning in dissembling, and dangerous to be met, if any Ruffler or Rogue be in their company. They feare neither God nor god lawes, but onely are kept in awe by the Wp-right-men, who oftentimes spoele them of all they haue, which to pzenent, the Walking Pozts vse this policy, they leaue their money (sometimes five

A Walking Mozt.

## The Bel-mjan

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Shillings, sometimes ten Shillings) in several shires, with some honest Farmers wife or other, whom they know they may trust, and when they trauell that way againe, at halfe peeres end, or a quarters, fetch it to serue their turnes, but dare neuer goe in good cloathes, lest the Up-right-men either strip them into rags, or else starke naked, as they vse to doe.

An Autem  
Mort.

An Autem Mort, is a woman married, for Autem in the Beggars language is a Church: these Mortes seldome keep with their husbands, but are from them sometimes a Month or Two, yet neuer walke they without a man in their company, and bopes, and girles at their heels of ten or twelue yeares old, whom they imploy at windowes of houses in the night time, or early in the mornings, to pilfer any thing that is worth the carrying away, which (in their tongue) they call pillling of the Hen. These Autem Mortes walke with wallets on their shoulders, and Slaters or sheets at their backs, in which they vse to lie. Their husbands commonly are Ruslers, Up-right-men, or Wilde Rogues, and their companions of the same breed.

Baudy bas-  
et.

There is another Parrot (in this Bird-cage) whose feathers are moze sleeke, and tongue moze smooth then the rest, and she is called a Baudy Basket, these Baudy Baskets are women that walke with baskets or Cap-rases on their armes, wherein they haue laces, pinnes, needles, white Ynkle, tape, round white silke Birdles, and such like: these will buy Cony Skins, and in the meane time steale Linnen or Pewter: they are faire spoken, and will seldome sweare whilst they are selling their wares, but lye with any man that hath a mind to their commodities. The Up-right men and these hold such league together, that whatsoeuer they haue is common to them both, and oftentimes will they with money releue one another.

demaunders  
Glimmer.

The selfe same Truce is taken betweene the Up-right-men and the demaunders of Glimmer, that is to say, those who trauele by and down with licences to beg, because their houses haue been consumed with fire: for Glimmer, (in Canting) signifies fire.

These Glimmering Mortes are so tender hearted, that they shed teares if they make but mention of their losses, and tell a lamentable story how the fire destroyed their barnes, stables &c. all that they speake being meere lyes: they likewise carry wallets at their backs, and are onely attended vpon and defended

ded

ded by the Upright-men, who neuer walke along with them  
through any towne, but keepe aloofe, And these (quoth the Hostesse of the Beggars) are all of the  
cheefest (both the Whores and Whore-Deuils) that dance in this  
large circle. I haue brought you acquainted with their names,  
their natures, their tradings, and their trafficke: if you haue a  
desire to know moze of them, you shall find whole congregations  
of them at Saint Quintins, the White Cranes in the Mintry,  
Saint Ives, and at Knapshury, which foure places are foure se-  
uerall barnes within one miles compasse nere London, being  
but pick-names giuen to them by the Upright-men. In those  
Innes they doe lodge euery night: In those doe Upright-men  
lie with Whores, and turne Welles into Whores (that is to say, ra-  
nish young wenches) whilst the Rogue is glad to stand at re-  
uerfion, and to take the others leanings. In Middlesex likewise  
stand foure other Harbours for them, namely, Draw the pud-  
ding out of the fire (which is in the parish of Harrow on the Hill)  
The Crosse Keyes (which is in Cranford parish) Saint Julians  
(which is in Whittleworth parish) And the house of Pitty, in  
Northall Parish. The Kings Barne nere Darford, and Ket-  
brake neare Black-heath, are likewise houses of good recett  
for them: In all Shires haue they such Innes as these, and in  
all of them, and these receited, shall you find sometimes forty Up-  
right-men together, fending beggers with their Whores. No  
sinne but is here committed without shame, Adultery is com-  
mon among them, Incest but laughed at, Sodomy made a  
jest: At these Hauens doe they cast Anchors boldly, because none  
are by to barre their entrance: yea, those that are owners of these  
Barnes and Backhouses, dare not but giue welcome to these  
Unruly Guests: for if they should not, they would at one time  
or other set fire of their houses, or by bloudy and trecherous pra-  
ctises take away their liues, for this cause sir (quoth she) am I  
glad to looke smilingly vpon them, & to play the Hostesse, because  
my abiding stands so far from company, yet I protest (quoth she)  
I hate the sight of the, as knowing them to be hel-hounds, & haue  
made discovery of their deuillish conditions, because you may teach  
others how to auoyde them: and howsoeuer you may be drawne  
peraduenture to publish these abuses to the world (saide she) yet I  
pray you conceale my name, the publishing of which may cost me  
my life.

## The Bellman

102 By this time the fumes of the Ale which had discompered her  
baines, and set her tongue a going were dispersed, so that both  
her looks and speech shewing that she did not now dissemble, but  
uttered these things unsainely, I gaue her many thanks for her  
Discouery, counsell'd her to change her discomfutable Lodg-  
ing, and to dwell in a place more inhabited (which shee pro-  
mised to doe) and away I went. A thousand cogitations  
kept mee company as I trauelled alone by my selfe: for I was  
to heare, that in those places where Innocency and Simplicity  
should be boyn, so much, and such vgly Willany should be nour-  
shed, yet was I glad that I came to the knowledge of their e-  
uils, because the dressing of such wounds in a common wealth, is  
the curing of them.

Looking therefore with more pearcing eyes into the Country  
life, I beganne to hate it worse then (before) I loned it, I fell to  
dispraise it faster then euer I did commend it: for I found it full  
of care, and full of craft, full of labour, and yet full of penury: I  
saw the poore Husbandman made a slave to the rich Farmer,  
the Farmer racked by his Landlord: I saw that Couetousnes  
made deare peares when shee had the fullest Barns: and to curse  
plenty for being liberall of her blessings. I had heard of no sinne  
in the City, but I met it in the Village, nor any vice in the  
Tradefman which was not in the Ploughman. All places there-  
fore being haunted with euill spirits, I forsooke the fields and the  
Mountaines, and toke my journey backe againe to the City,  
whose customes (both good and bad) I desire to bee acquainted  
with. It was my fortune to trauell so late, that the Mone had  
clim'd vp to the very toppes of Mponight: before I had entrance  
into the Gates of the City, which made mee make the more haste  
to my Lodging: but in my passage I first heard (in some good  
distance before me) the sound of a Bell, and then of a mans voyce,  
both which times seemed at that dead hour of the night verie  
dolefull. On I hastned to know what noyse it should bee, and  
in the end found it to be the Bellman of London. The sound of  
his voyce at the first put mee in mind of the day of Iudgement:  
When (me thought) start'ing out of their sleepes at the ringing  
of his bell, as when they are to rise from their graues at the call  
of a trumpet: but when I approached nere vnto him and beheld  
a man with a lanthorne and candle in his hand, a long staffe on  
his

his necke, and a dogge at his taylor, I supposed verily, because the  
 Spone shone somewhat dimly, that the man in the Spone had  
 leapt downe from heauen, & (soz fast) had left his bussh of thozns  
 behind him. But these imaginations vanishing, as fast as  
 they were begotten, I began to talke to my Bell-man, and to  
 aske him why with such a Jangling and belling, and beating  
 at mens dozes, hee went about to waken either poze men  
 that were overwearied with labour, or sickes that had most  
 need of rest. Hee made answere unto mee, that the Ringing  
 of his Bell, was not (like an Alarm in a Towne of Garri-  
 son) to fright the Inhabitants, but rather it was Spuicke to  
 charme them faster with sleepe: the Beating at their dozes as-  
 sured those within, that no thoenes were entered, nor that false  
 servants had wilfully or negligently suffered the dozes to stand  
 open, to haue their Maisters robbd, and that his crying out so loud  
 was but like the Shill God morrow of a Cocke; to put men  
 (that had wealth enough) in mind of the time, how it slideth a-  
 way, and to bid those that are full of businesse to bee watchfull  
 for their due houres when they were to rise. Hee calde him-  
 selfe therefore the Centinell of the City, the Watchman of e-  
 uery Ward; the honest Spyte that discovered the Pzentizes of the  
 night, and that as a lantern in the poze of a Shipper, was a  
 guide or comfort to Sea-men in most pitchy darkenesse; so was  
 his walking by and downe in the night time, a pvention to  
 the City often times of much and many dangerous fires. I li-  
 ked well that thus he praised himselfe, because in those pzaples  
 lay the commendation of an honourable, ciuill, and politike go-  
 uernment. And so farre dealt I with him, that in the end hee  
 brought mee acquainted with his office, aswell as hee knew it  
 himselfe, and discovered unto me the properties of his Walkes,  
 as how farre his bounds reached; what mad Hobgoblings hee  
 oftentimes encountred with, what mischieses hee now and then  
 pvented, what knaueries hee was now and then an eye Wit-  
 nesse to, and to what secret villantes (brought to bed in darke-  
 nesse) hee was compelled to bee (though not the Midwife) yet a  
 gossip, present at the labour and deliuey. Of all which, I ha-  
 uing a longing desire to get the true pictures, and perswading  
 him that he was bound by his place, by his conscience, and by  
 the lawes of common humanity to lay open such plots as were  
 so

## The Bel-man

so dangerous to the common wealth, whereof hee was a member, hee yielded at the length to discouer all that he knew, and for that purpose not only carryed me home to his lodging, where hee gaue mee the notes and names of sundry abuses begotten in the dead of night, but also went vp and downe the City with me all the next day, shewing me the very doores and signes at which they dwelt, and the very faces of those that are the Devils Factors in those Low Country commodities of Hell: I learnt much by the Bell-mans intelligence, but moze afterwards by my owne obseruation and experience: what Merchandise I stoze my selfe with by both Wayes, here doe I vnlade, and what profit soeuer arises by the trafficke of them, shall if you please bee wholly yours. And for that the Lading was of sundry commodities, I will deliuer them forth in their seuerall parcels, as I receiued them.

## Of Cheating Law.

**A**LL Vices maske themselves with the vizards of Vertue: they bozrow their names, the better and moze currantlike to passe without suspicion: for murder will be called Man-hood, Drunkenness is now held to be Physicke, Impudence is Audacity, A hot good fellowshipp, &c. So are these Villanies (whose faces I meane to discouer) painted ouer with fresh orient Colours, because their looks may bee moze pleasing, and lesse suspected to haue craft vnderneath them. And for that purpose haue their Inaueries gotten the names of Arts or Lawes, as the Art of such a thing or such a Law, not that they are institutions set down by law for the good of men, or of a common wealth: but as the Law is grounded vpon reason, and hath Maximes of Iustices, vpon which shee buildeth all her Politicks, whereby shee governes Kingdomes: So these newfound lawes of the Devils inuention, are grounded vpon mischief, and are nothing else but certaine Acts and Rules dyatone into heads (in an assembly of damned Wretches) for the utter vndoing of Men, and confusion of the whole publike.

Of all which Lawes, the Highest in place, and the Highest in perdition is the Cheating Law, or the art of winning money by false dyce. Those that practise this study call themselves Cheaters



ters, the Dice Cheaters, and the money which they purchase Cheats : bozrowing the tearme from our common Lawyers, with whom all such casuals as fall to the Lord at the holding of his Leetes, as Waifes, Straies, and such like, are sayd to be Escheated to the Lords use, and are called Cheates. This sort of Gamesters, were at first a few in number, (the Art being odious) they were worse (as being hated and byden from all good mens company.) But now there are so many profess Cheaters, and so many that giue countenance to their Occupation, that they might make an Army sufficient to giue the Turke a battell, now are they not hungry thread bare knaues, but Gallants that ruffle in silk, and are whozied through the streetes in Coaches, their purses being full of Crownes, and their fingers being held by able to command the proudest Curtizan. Yea, to such a ranknesse hath custome brought this vice, and to such a boldnes, that in the most noble assemblies, at the best Ordinaries, where your onely Gallants spend afternoones, and in your most ciuill meetings of Marchants, your wealthiest Citizens, if they fall to play with dice for any round summes of money, it is now grown to a fashion to haue some one or other to take by the Cheaters weapons, and (without all respect of honesty, friendship or society) to beat all commers.

A Cheater playes his Walsters prize at 14. severall weapons, and those weapons are these.

The names of false Dice.

- A Bale of bard sincke Dewces.
- A Bale of Flat sincke Dewces.
- A Bale of Flat sicce Aces.
- A Bale of bard sicce Aces.
- A Bale of Bard cater-treas.
- A Bale of Flat-Cater-Treas.
- A Bale of Fullams.
- A Bale of light Graniers.
- A Bale of Langrets, contrary to the Vantage.
- A Bale of Gordes, with as many High-men as Low-men for Passage.
- A Bale of Demies.
- A Bale of Long-Dice for euen and odde.

A Bale of bristles.

A Bale of direct contraries.

These are the 14. diuinitie hookes, by which the Cheater angels for other mens money, hee cares not in what River, hee makes no conscience with what Bayte, so hee may haue good draughts to maintaine himselfe in riots, and his Whore in rich apparrell, that she whitt hee shotes at. Neyther doth hee let al these arrowes flie at one marke, nor in all weathers. But some he shots in one game, some in another, and as hee finds what soles are in his company, so doth hee bestow his bolts. To set downe all the Legier-demaioe of this handicraft, would peraduenture instruct some ill minded persons in that villany, which is published onely to haue others shun it: I will therefore shew you a few of their ingling tricks, that are Graduates in the Art, and by the shape of them iudge the rest, for all are alike.

A Langret is a Die which simple men haue seldome heard of, and happily neuer seene (but to their cost) It is (to the eye of him that is but a Pouice) a good and square Die, yet it is cutte longer vpon the Cater and Treas, then vpon any other point, and is for that cause called a Langret: these Langrets are also called Bard Cater Treas, because in the running, the longer end will commonly (of his owne sway) draw downe wards, and turne eyther Dice, Sink, or Wince, or Ace vponwards on the board, the principall vse of them is at Novum: for so long as a payze of bard Cater Treas be walking, so long can you cast neither 5. nor 9. vnlesse it be by great chance, that the roughnesse of the Table, or some other stoppe force them to stay, and to run against their kind: for without Cater Treas, 5. or 9. you know can neuer come. Here some may imagine, that by this means hee that hath the first Dyce in his hand, may strip all that play at the Table of their money, but this must be their helpe, An odde Die called Flat Cater Treas (and no other number) is to be ready at hand: for granting the Treas & Cater to be alwayes vpon the one Die, then is there no chance vpon the other Die, but may serue to make 5. or 9. and so cast forth and lose all.

The Cheater therefore marketh well the Flat, and bendeth a great part of his study to learne when hee is aboard, for so long as that is stirring, hee will neuer cast at much, the shift which

a Cheater is by iuen to, in conueying the Flat in and out, is a notable Cunning, and in their trade is called foyking; which is nothing else but a slight to carry Dice easily in the hand so often as the Foyker listeth: so that when either he or his partner calleth the Dice, the Flat comes not abroad till he hath made a Great hand, otherwise the Flat is still sure to be one, vnlesse the Cheater of purpose suffers the silly Drouces, with whom he playes, to cast in a hand or two to giue them courage and to lye in hope of winning.

The damnable Oathes and Quarrels that waite at the table of Gamblers, are occasion that many men forbear to venture money in those sports, who otherwise would play, the Cheater therefore (being a cunning obseruer in all fashions) will seldome sweare (if he haue gotten a Gul into his company whom he is loath to anger for feare to lose him) and as seldome swagger, but will rather put by an open wong, then by a foolish bzaule to bzeake off the company and so to hinder himselfe and his consort of purchase: But if he sweare, you would take him for a puritane, for his oathes are Of honesty, of truth, by Saint Martin, &c.

And take this note, that when he sweares affirmatiuely, hee meanes alwaies the contrary. As for example, if I say vnto you when the Dice come to your hands, Of honesty cast at all, my meaning is, you shall cast at the Table, or else at very little: or if when one being stript out of all his money, offer to payne a Ring or a Jewell, and sweare by Saint Martin I thinke it is fine gold: then doe I meane that it is pure copper, and so of the rest: He that is drauone in to venture his money, is (amongst this cursed brotherhood of Cheaters) tearmed a Cozen, and is handled so kindly, as if he were a Cozen indeed: If he once set in a foot, and that they fall to Hunt him, then all the craft is to make the Cong sweate, that is to say, so wisely to handle him, that he may haue a desire more and more to play and to keepe company, yet so warily to encrease this appetite in him that he smooke not the Cheater, which is, that hee smell not what knauerie is bent against him, and so slip the collar like a Hound, and shake off the company for euer.

At the taking vp of a Cozen, the first Weny that a Cheater giues him, is to learne befoze he play what stoze of Wit he hath in his Bay, that is, what money he hath in his purse, and whe-

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ther it be in great Cogges or small: that is, in gold or silver, and at what game he will soonest stoop; for that being knowne, his humour is set, and he is choaked with the meat he loues best. For some that will not play a groat at Novum, will lose a Hundred pound at Hazard, and he that will not lose a Shilling at Dice, will play away his patrimony at Cardes: for which cause the Cheater furnissheth himselfe for all voyages, but especially provides for fine Cheates, and to atchieue which with moze ease, he acquaints himselfe with Dice-makers, that worke in corners (Warlets they are that are Factors to the Deuill, and for money will exchange their soules in a bale of Dice) these Dice-makers, arme the Cheater with the foresaid 14. weapons, and then he is a Cheater compleat.

One notable policy is (as a Rule) set downe in this Schoole of Cheating, and that is, A Cheater neuer discouereth his secrets of his Art to any, vnlesse it be to such a one who being left by his Parents, rich in money and possessions, hath to the musicke of square rattling bones danced so long, that he hath danced himselfe into the company of beggers, and is brought to such want and misery, that he would leaue no stone vnturned to finde a pennie vnder it. Such a wretch is instructed in those villanies, by which he himselfe hath bene wrought to infamy: the poppon that once he swallowed both he now cast vp to kill others with it. Pelteth doth the Cheater bestow this learning vpon his young Scholler, out of a commiseration of his low estate, but onely to make vse of him, euen in the height of his extremitie. His Journeyman therefore doth he make him, and because the Cheater is happily a man so noted in all companies, that few or none will venture money where he playes, the Pounce is taught to play his schollers prize, whilst the other stands by and lookes on, yet so, that the Cheater hath the swiftnesse of the gaines. The Pounces employments then, are amongst his rich kindred, Country-men, or acquaintance to find out Consens, whom he must by one trick or other get to a Tavern, or inuite them to a supper, at the end of which, the Cheater layes about him to draw them to play, and secretly lends his Pupill money to maintaine game, both their wits working how to cheate those that are in the company. We haue been too long at Dice, let vs now fall to Cardes.

## Of Barnards Law.

**D**ice and Cards are twins, Idleness was the Father of them, Desire of Gaine is the mother, honest Recreation saves the was their Nurse, and ought to have the byzinging of them by: but howsoever, the Devil makes them now his adopted children: and no wonder, for they are like in conditions, as being both (like him) full of deceit: if there be cozenage in tripping of a Die, there is the like craft in shuffling and sorting of a payze of Cards: insomuch that what game soever is on foote, he that is marked out to bee the loser (by the Synodical assembly and Fathers of the Barnards law) is sure never to depart a winner.

To speake of all the sleights used by Card-players in all sorts of Games, would but weary you that are to read, and beebut a thanklesse and vnpleasing labour for me to set them downe. D-mitting therefore the deceipts practised (even in the sayest and most civill Companies) at Primero, Saunt, Patw, Trump, and such like games, I will onely lay open the villantes of a base-kind of people, that tranell up and downe the whole land, sometimes in the habit of Gentlemen, sometimes of Servingmen, sometimes of Gossiers, Farmers, and plaine Fellows, maintayning themselves only by the cozenage they vse in Card-playing: which kind of play of theirs, they call. The Barnards Law.

To act which maner of Comedey of Wily-begily, 5. Persons are required, and those are,

- 1 The Taker.
- 2 The Cozen.
- 3 The Verser.
- 4 The Barnard.
- 5 The Rutter.

These are the players, now shall you heare their parts.

- 1 The Taker, is he that by some fine invention fetcheth in the man whom they desire to draw into Gaming.
- 2 The Cozen is the party that is taken.
- 3 The Verser, is a fellow more graue in speech and habit, and

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seemes to be a landed man, his part is to second what the Taker begins, and to giue countenance to the act.

4 The Barnard is the chiefe player, for he counterfets many parts in one, and is now a drunken man, anon, in another humour, and shifts himselfe into so many shapes, onely to blind the Cozen, and to feed him with moze delight, the moze easily to beguile him.

5 The Rutter is as arrant a knaue as the rest, his part is discharged when hee hath begun a fray with his owne shadow, whilest the rest that haue made a younger brother of the poze Cozen, steale out of sight. Now to the Country it selfe: The Prologue of which if it goe off well, there is good hope all shall end well: All the running thereof is how to beginne, and to doe that: the Taker studies his part at his fingers ends: The Stage on which he playes his Prologue is either in Fleet-Street, the Strand, or in Pauls, and most commonly in the afternone, when country Clients are at most leasure to walke in those places, or for dispatching of their businesse, travell from Lawyer to Lawyer, thzough Chancery Lane, Holborne and such like places.

In this heate of running to and fro, if a plaine Fellow well and cleanly apparellled, either in home-spunne Russet, or Fræz (as the season requires) with a fide porch at his Girdle, happen to appeare in his rusticall likenesse: There is a Cozen sayes one. At which word out flies the Taker, and thus giues the on-set vpon my old Penny-Father. Sir, God saue you, you are welcome to London, how doe all our good friends in the Country? I hope they be well: the Russeting amazed at these salutations of a Stranger, replies: Sir, all our friends in the Country are in health, but pray pardon me, I know you not, belæue it: So (answers the Taker) are you not a Lancashire man, or of such a country? if he sayes yea, then the fild nibles, and he giues him moze line to play with: if he say no, then the Taker hath about with another weapon, and sweares soberly: In god sooth, Sir, I know your face, and am sure we haue bin merry together, I pray (if I may beg it without offence) be to your name vpon me, and your dwelling place. The innocent man suspecting no peyson in this gilded cup, tels him presently his name and abiding, by what Gentleman he dwels, &c. which being



being done, the Taker for thus interrupting him in his Way, and for the wrong in mistaking him for another, offers a quart of wine: if the Cozen be such an Ass, to goe into a Tauerne, then hee is sure to bee Unckled, but if hee smacks my Taker, and smell Gunpowder traines, yet will not be blowane vp, they part fairely, and then to the Werfer goes the Taker, discovering what he hath done, and deliuers the mans name, Country, and dwelling to the Werfer, who boldly stepping to him, or crossing the way to meete him full in the face, takes acquaintance presently of him, salutes him by his name, inquires how such and such Gentlemen doe, that dwell in the same Towne by him, and albeit the Honest Hobnape-wearer can by no meanes bee brought to remember this new friend, yet will hee, nill hee, so the Tauerne he sweares to haue him, and to bestow upon him the best wine in London.

Diuers other pullies (if these two sayle) haue they to draw simple men into their company, as by dropping a Shilling in the open way, which being taken vp in the Country mans sight, must be spent in Wine, because he will haue his halfe part, or by intreating him to steppe into a Tauerne till the Werfer haue wit a word or two into the Country, which he must carry to his friends, offering the Cozen a Shilling for his paines. But the conclusion of all is, that if they thinke his bag is well lined with silver, to the Tauerne by one subtil hooke or other, they will pull him, where being set with the Werfer and the Taker, and Wine called for: In comes the Barnard stumbling into the Roome, as if it were by chance, seeming to be halfe drunken, and crying the company mercy for being so bolde with them, they modestly answer, no hurt is done: and aske him, if hee will drinke with them: He takes their offer, and sweares to pay for a pint of Wine, which they by no meanes will suffer.

But the Barnard tels them he has money for what he calls, and vsing phrases fitte for a drunken man, out flies some 20. or 40. Angels on the board, which he puts vp presently again and says, seeing they will not suffer him to pay for a pinte, hee will play at cards for it with any one of them at a new game which he learnt but now, with the losse onely of a pot of Ale. The rest of his consorts (making as though what they doe, is to be

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rid of him are content to play for a pint and no more. The Taker or the Merker is the man must play with him, the Cardes are fetcht, Mmchance or Decoy is the game: the first Wager is Twine, the second two pence in money, from two pence they rise to a Shilling, from that to a pound, and hauing dzatone some good stoze of gold from the Barnard, the Cozen (allured with the swætnesse of gaine, and hope of winning, seeing the other halfe dzunk, as he imagines) is offered to be halfe in whatsoeuer is won: he scopes to this lure, but the bush is so well beaten by these subtil sowlers, that in the end, all the birds are flown out of the Cozens hand, and he hath not one penny left him in his purse: if then he smell the Bnauery, and fall to call for a Constable, swearing the dzunken rascal hath cozened him (for the Barnard you must know carryes away all the money) they enters the Rutter, who picking some stole quarrell, eyther in the roome, or at the Stræt dooze: the Couey of the cheaters take their flight in the meane time, and that (with the Waring of the purchase in another Lanerne) is the Epilogue to their Comedie, but the first entrance to the poze Countrymans Tragedie.

These Comedians strout likewise by and downe the Country in the habits of Seruingmen, and silly fellows, haunting Brainford, Kingstone, Croyden, Rumford, and such other places nearest London vpon the Market dayes onely, and at the end of the market, when Butchers, Graziers and others whom they thinke to be stozed with money, are on their way home, then will one of this crew ouertake them in riding: and light at some town of purpose to mend his girt, to remoue a shooe of his horse, or vpon any other excuse, intreating the Company (with whom he is newly acquainted) to stay and dzinke a pot with him in the meane time. And in these Country Wopages doe they sayle by other points of the Compasse, the windes are not so boysterous, nor the Sea so rough as the former, for here is there neither one that playes the Dzunkard, nor any that swaggers, but these diuells Malquers, passe vnder these names at such meetings, viz. 1. The party that fetcheth in the Gull (whose feathers they meane to plucke) is not called the Taker, but the Setter. 2. He that seconds him, keepest his first title, and is called the Merker.

3 He that looseth his money, not a Cozen but a Cony. 4 Hee that

that comes in, and before counterpoised the drunken Barnard, is now sober, and called the Barnacle.

Sometimes likewise this Card-cheating, goes not under the name of Barnards Law, but is called Bat-sotling, and then the Setter is the Beater, the foole that is caught in the net, the Bird, the Lanterne to which they repayze to worke the feat, is the Bull, the wine the Strap, and the Cards the Linnet twigs.

This have I discovered a strange Art, by which Conges are caught after a new manner of hunting, and Cozens found out that were never of the kindred before. Thus the honest Farmer simply going about his businesse, is stripped of that money, which should further his Law-suites, and so perhaps is overthrown. Thus the Servingman being sent with his Lords treasure is cheated, and turned out of service. Thus the Pzen-tize haunting his Masters wealth in his hand, is robbed (by tame theues) and in the end dyen to runne away, or to dye in prison. Thus the Gentleman comming new to his Land, is made a beggar: Thus the Merchant is undone. Thus all men are abused. Thus the Common wealth is dishonoured by feeding such Vipers in her wombe, that cannot live but by gnawing out of her bowels.

Vincents Law.

**T**He Dycing Cheater, and the cozening Card-player, walke in the habits of Gentlemen, and carry the faces of honest men: So likewise doe these that are Students in the Vincents Law, whose Inne is a botwling Alley, whose bookes are botoles, and whose Law-cases are lurches and rubbers. The pastime of Botoles is now growne to a common exercise, or rather a trade, of which, some of all Companies are free, the sport is not so common as the cozenage used in it, which to have it live with credit, and in a good name it is called the Vincents Law.

In this Law they which play boty are the Bankers.

He that betteth is the Gripe.

He that is cozened is the Vincent.

The gaires gotten is called Termage.

The Bankers are commonly men apparelled like honest and sub-

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substantiall Citizens, who come into the Bowling Allies for a Rubbers or so, as though it were rather for sport, then for any gaines, professing they care not whether they winne or lose : which carelesnesse of theirs is but a shadow to their pretended knavery : whilst they are crying Rub, rub, rub, and a great one, In come the spectators dropping one by one, and stand leaning ouer a Ralle to behold them ; of which oftentimes some simple men that neuer saw common bowling Alley before, may perhaps be of the number, and is brought in of purpose by one of their owne Brotherhoo to be rid of his money : if such a young bird happen amongst them, and doe once but chirp, that is to say, either take or offer any lay, they all harken to his note, especially if he sing shrilly, that is to say be depe : if there be good stoze of Lookers on, then are there certaine old soakers, whose office is to do nothing but listen for betters, either euen or odde : these are called Gzipes : which Gzipes will refuse no Lay, if the ods may grow to their aduantage, for the Gzipes and the Bankers are sworne Brothers to the Deuill (their Father in law) and the bowles haue such vertue in them, that their biases will directly runne as the Gzipes haue placed their Bettres, the Bankers (albeit they so play as if they minded nothing but their owne game) yet haue still an eare how the layes are made, and according to that leuell doe they throw their Bowles, so that bee sure the bowlers play boty : for suppose 7. be vp for the game, and that the one side hath 3. the other none, then the Vincent (who is the pounce that standeth by, and is not acquainted with the fallents of these Gzipes, nor sales not when they draw blood of him, no nor doth not so much as carry an euill thought of the Bowlers that they should play boty, looking so grauely and so like to honest men) hee pooze colte, seeing thre to none, begins to grow lustie, and to offer oddes on that side which is fairest for the game : what ods sales the Gzipe, 3. to one cries the Vincent : no sayes the Gzipe it is moze, and with that the Bankers are come to foure for none, then the Vincent offers to lay foure to one : I take six to one sayes the Gzipe, I lay it cryes the Vincent : and so they make a bet of six Crownes, Willings, or pence, as the Vincent is of ability to lay : and thus will sundry take their ods of him : On then goe the Bankers with the game, and win another cast which is siue for none ; at  
this

this soles cozstant of his, the Vincent grinneth for joy, scratches his elbowe, and is so proud, that no ground about the Alley can hold him, thinking verrily both by the odds and gabnelle of the play. It is impossible for his side to lose, and therefore (being now sole-hardy) hee takes and layes bets freely; all eyes greedily marking the event of this Roome: At the length on a suddaine, the win begins to shine on the other side that were none, and they win perhaps so long till they come to thre or foue, and still as their luck alters, diuersity of bets are laid, till at last they are foue for foue: and then the Gripe comes vpon the Vincent, and offers him odds, which if the Vincent saften vpon, he looseth all, for vpon what side soeuer the Gripe layes, that side euer wins, how great soeuer the odds be at first on the contrary part, so that the Cozenage growes in at playing booby. This soure banquet to the Vincent is seasoned with sweet meats to the Bankers and the Gripes, who at night meet in some Tauerne, and share the money gotten by this base meanes; which money they call Ter-mage.

Now to shadow the villany the more, the Banker that wins and is afozehand with the Game, will lay frankly that he shall winne, and will bet hard, and lay great odds, but with whom? either with them who play with him that are as crafty knaues as himselfe, or else with the Gripe, and this makes the Vincent to stoope to the blow the sooner. Besides, if any honest men that hold themselves skilfull in bowling, offer to play any set match against these common bowlers, if these Bankers feare to haue the worst, and suspects the other play to be better then theirs, then haue they a trick (in waiting of the alley) to giue such a moisture to the banke, that he who offers to strike a bowle with a shoe, shall neuer hit it whilst hee lines, because the moisture of the Banke hinders the proportion of his Aiming.

Many other practises there are in Bowling, tending to cozenage, but the greatest and grossest is Booby, in which the deceit is so open and palpable, that I haue seen men stone blinde offer to lay bets frankly, although they could see a bowle no more then a post, onely by hearing who plaide, and how the old Gripes had made their layes.

Thus sports that were invented for honest recreation, are by the wicked abusing of them, turned to mens confusion. And

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not onely in these Games befoze rehearsed, but also in those that are both moze laudable, and moze lawfull. For in the Tennis-Court cheating hath a hand, yea and in shooting, which is the noblest exercise of our English Nation, arrowes doe now and then flie with false feathers. Since then that all kinde of Gaming serves but as Gulpes to deuoure the substances of men, and to swallow them vp in beggery: My counsell is viterly either to refraine such pastimes, or if men are of such Spirits that they must needs venture their money, then to be very prouident how they play, and to be choise of their company. Now let vs turne ouer the volumes of other Lawes, enacted in the Parliament of these Deuils.

## The Blacke Art.

**H**aving waded thus farre in these Puddles of damned impurity, it shall not be amisse to goe on, and search euery to the bottome and farthest shoare of them: to effect which the sooner, we must now deale in the Blacke Art. It is not that Blacke Art, by which men conjure vp spirits, and raise Deuils in Circles, to tell where money is hid, or whither goods that are stolne are conuayed; But this Black Art, is to fetch away money where it lyes, and to raise vp a fiend in a rich Mercers or Goldsmiths Shop at midnight without the gibbish of a Starling Coniurer. This Blacke Art woorkes in darknes, as well as the other: it deales with the Deuill as the other doth, and is as vnlawfull as the other is: if you will needs (in a word) know the mystical meaning of this Blacke Art, it is called in English, Pickling of Lockes, and this Engine of mischief turnes vpon these five wheeles, viz.

The Picklocke is called a Charme.

He that watcheth if any body come is the Stand.

The toles that do the businesse are called Wresters.

Pickling of the locke is called Starling.

The gaines gotten is Pilferie.

Now albeit that two persons onely are employed in this vndermining of a doore, viz the Charme and the Stand, yet the burglary is committed by other hands, which are in a readinesse to receiue the goods (when the house is entred) and to conuey



vey them in parcels away. The Charme (who is the Master of this Blacke Art,) goes like a Coniurer, with a number of Ropes and wozels like so many Pentacles about him, which he calls Pick-locks, and for every sundry fashion, they haue a sundry terme, but being ignozant of their wozds of Art, I omit them, onely assuring you thus much, that the Charme hath such cunning, and such dexterity in opening of a Locke (and that without any great noyse) that no ward whatsoeuer (be it neuer so doubled) but flies backe at his Juggling with it. Some haue their instruments from Italy made of Steele, some are made here in England by Smiths that are partners and partakers in their villanous occupations. But howsoeuer, the Trade of Lock-picking may well be called the Black-Art, for none study it, but those that for other mens goods haue sold their very soules to the Deuill.

### The Curbing Law.

**T**he Blacke Art and the Curbing Law, are grounded both vpon the selfe same positions: for the Blacke Art teaches how to bzeake open a Locke, the Curbing Law how to hooke goods out of a window; they both are workers in Iron, both are begotten in Idleness, both liue by villany, and both die by infamy. A Smith is the maker and setter vp of these two trades: the hangman is the vtter vndoer of them. This Curbing Law spreads it selfe into foure maine branches.

He that hooke is called the Curber.

He that playes the spy is the Warpe.

The Hooke is the Curbe.

The goods are called Snappings.

The Sin to open the window is a Tricker.

The office of the Curber is for the most part betimes in the mornings (at the discharging of a watch) to be vp moze early then a hople of Hugging Fdlers; and the Husbandry which he followes is in the day time to watch what shoppes or windowes stand fittest for his trade, which if he finde easily to be opened, then the Cony is in the pursue without much fretting: But if he must take paines for his liuing, out come his Trickers, and then (as if he were a brother of the Blacke-Art) doth he with

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those Iron engines, cut a bar of Iron in sander, in such sort that scarce the standers by shal heare him. The window being thus open, and that he hath good hope to meete with fat Snappings, (oz rich purchase) the Wary bustles to play his part and watches with Cats-eyes in the darke, looking (like one asquint, oz as if he had to catch Hares) two waies, one to spye who comes, the other to note what comes out at a window: to carry which away he is furnished with a long Cloake. But first must the Curber play his pyze, and that is with an Iron about nine foot in length, at whose end (being crooked) are three Tynes turned contrary, so that they catch every way, if any Snappings be within their reach. This hooke oz Curb is made with ioynts like an Angling rodde, and in the day time is conueyed into the forme of a Truncheon, and woꝛne like a walking staffe till night, when it is put to doe other seruice.

Whatsoever the Curber with his angle fishes for and takes, the Wary beares it away, and he deliueers it either to a Woker oz some balw (for they al are of one feather,) of which Receiueurs they haue as present money for it, as if they traded with Merchants. Then is there (belonging to this faculty) a Diuer, and he is just in the nature of a Curber, for as the one practises his vslany with a hooke, so the Diuer woꝛks his ingling seats by the helpe of a boy (called a Figger) whom he thrusts in at a casement, being so well studied that he hath the principles of the Blacke Art, and can picke a locke if it be not too much crosse warded: this Figger deliueers to the Diuer what snappings he finds in the shop oz chamber.

### The Prigging law.

**B**eing weary with going thus farre on foote, let vs now (siþence we haue ouertaken a Horseman) get vp and ride along with him. Yet now I looke vpon him well, it is moze safety and better pollicy to let him ride by himselfe, for hee rides circuite with the Deuill, and Derieke must be his host, and Wybozne the Jine at which he will light. This ranck- rider is of the family of Knights errant, oz of those wandꝛing Rogues that march in the first files of my booke, his name is a Prigger, deriuing his title from his practise, which is called the

Prigge

**Pigging Law**, whose grounds are the cleaneſt and cunning  
ſtealing of hozſes.

This **Pigging Art** runnes into ſix riuers, all of them  
falling into one ſtreame, and all of them flowing from one  
head.

He that ſteales the hozſe, is called the **Pigger**.

The hozſe is called a **Pancer**.

The ſeller away of the ſolne hozſe is a **Partar**.

The Tolling houſe is called **Alhallowes**.

The tiller is the **Kitter**.

The ſuerties at the toll-booke are called **Querries**.

A **Pigger** on foote is called **Trayler**.

The **Pigger** if he be a lance-man (that is to ſay, one that is  
already hozſe) then rides he in ſtate, attended by followers, who  
are either like his ſervants in **Querries**, or in the habite of Gen-  
tlemen, or moſt commonly in the ſhapes of **Wouters**: in this e-  
quipage doe they walke vp and downe meadows and paſtures or  
other incloſed grounds, as if their purpoſe were to buy **Cattell**,  
whereas their eyes are ſuely buſied in noting hozſes that are  
worth the ſtealing, and whether their heels are ſetled with  
hozſe-locks or no.

The firſt circle being bzawne in the day time, the next night  
following our **Piggers** fall to conſuring, and by the ſpels of the  
**Black-Art** picke open the **Tramels** or **Locks**, and then like bats  
or **Wholes** away they flye over hedge & ditch out of thoſe quarters.  
The owners in the morning may ſmell out their footſteps and  
ſee which way they are rid poſt, but unleſſe either the **Devil** him-  
ſelf either went with a candle & lanthorne beſoze them, the **Pig-  
gers** would neuer be found, or elſe carried them on his back, and  
bid them to hold faſt by his hoznes whilſt he gallopped, it were  
not poſſible to overtake them. For this policy they uſe, if the  
**Pigger** ſteale a hozſe in **Workeſhire**, he ſells him in **Surrey**  
**Hent** or **ſuſſex**, and their **Partars** (ſo called of hunting hozſes or  
**Faires**) who receiue the at the **Piggers** hands, chop them away  
in ſome blind faires or other after they haue kept them a moneth  
or two till the bzearth of the **Hue** and **Cry** be blowne over.

If the hozſe be of any value and much inquired after, or carry  
ſuch bzands or eare-markes about him, that they cannot put him  
off without daunger, then doe theſe **Piggers** bzand him with a

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croffe-bzand on the former, or take away his eare-marke, and so keepe him at hard meate till he be perfectly recovered, or else will they sell him in Coznewall or Wales, if he be fetcht out of Cumberland, Lincolneshire, Dorsetholke or Suffolke. But if the Horse be openly couered and without Bzandes, then haue they shifts to spot them so strangely, that a man shall hardly know his owne horse if he meete him, as to marke a black-horse with saddle-spots, or to starre him in the forehead, and change his taile, the secrets of which are not fit in print to be discovered, lest laying open the abuse, I should teach some how to practise it.

This is the life of the Pigger, who travels vp and downe the whole Kingdome vpon his Gelding of 20. and 40. Pound price, and is taken for a man of good worth, by his outward shew, being (amongst his owne fraternitie of Horse-dealers) called a Piggering lance-man. But he that borowes a nag out of another mans pasture, and cares not so he may get money for him, how he puts him away, onely to supply his wants, is called a Trayler: These Traylers trot vpon the horse, and are swtmen, means in apparell, though not means in their thrauing trade: you shall haue them attired like plaine Country grans, walking (like our thred-bare gallants in Pauls) in boots without spurs, and sometimes without boots, long stauces on their necks, and blacke buckram bags at their backs, as if they were Lawyers Cypents, and carried letters vp and downe: but those buckram bags are the Horses wardrope: In those bagges doe these sneaking Traylers put saddles, bzidle, spurres, stirrops, and stirrop leathers, all this Hackney householdstuffe being made so quaintly, that the deepe flop of a horse is able to hide it: for the saddle is fashioned without any trée (yet hath it cantle and bolsters) but artificially quilted together with cloth and bumbast, and with such foldes that it may easily be wrapt vp in a little roome: the stirrops goe with vices and ginnes, that one may put them into a paire of Gloues, so likewise doe the spurres, and then a little white leather head-stale and raines, with a small Scottissh bzake or snaffle, all of them so neatly framed, that a small bag will containe them. And looke how the Lance-man rides post when hee sits vpon his prey, so when the Trayler is in the Saddle, away he Gallops as if euery Jade of Sea-

seven nobles prize, were a winged Pegasus, selling him as farre off from the place where he stole him, as possibly he can.

Now because these Piggers though they breake the Law in one point, yet they make it whole in another, and very orderly come to the Toll booke, bringing two (of their owne religion) civilly attired (sitting the place) who not onely affirme, but offer to depose, that they know the Horse to bee his owne that sells it: yet are those captives no better then old Knights of the post that will perjure themselves for pots of Ale, and neuer saw perhaps either the Pigger or the Pzancer before: these wicked Elders, having been for villanies banished out of Westminster Hall, or for their Perjuries stood and lost their eares on the Pillorie, retire themselves into the Country, and professe this kind of life, being by the Horse-Dealers called (though they are far unworthy of so good a name) Querries: leaning whom (with the horse men their good Lord and Masters) either to an amendment of manners, or to the mercy of the Hangman, who must teach them to ride his wooden curtall, let us, because wee are now lifting them out of the saddle, turne over a new lease, and reade a lecture in the Lifting law.

### The Lifting Law.

**T**he Lifting Law, is not the Law of Porters, who line by lifting, and cry to another, lend me your hand; when honestly they are to carry a burthen for a penny, and safely to deliver it to the owner backe againe: but this Law teacheth a kind of lifting of goods cleane away. In such liftings are three sorts of Leavers bled to get up the baggage. viz.

He that first stealeth the parcell is called, The Lift.

He that receiveth it is the Parker.

He that stands without and carries it away, is the Santar.

The goods thus purchased, is called Garbage, which Garbage is sometime Plate or Jewels, sometimes pieces of velvet, sometimes Cloakes or Lawpers gownes, sometimes one thing, sometimes another.

The practitioners of this lifting Law, take severall degrees; for some of them (and they are the Pannies) are but base Rogues, that

that line by lifting quart pots, platters, and such trash out of Dipping houses; under colour of spending two or three Pots of Ale. These are the Rascallity of this Heerd. But the Gentleman Lifter walks with this Parker at his heels, as if he were a Countie Gentleman of 100. a yere, and coming into a Percers Shop or Gold-Smiths Shop, presently calls by his cloak (to colour his intents) the Parker standing bare-headed not far from him his worship, then asks for a bolt of Wattin, Helmet, Cloth of Gold or Silver; or any of the richest commodities: and not liking the pile, colour or hake, his eye must haue the choyce of moze, the Parker in meane time whilst the Percer is busie, and turnes his backe, hath the Garbage thrust towards him by the Lifter, and conueyes it vnder his cloake, the Denter who walks in the street, passing then in great hast by the doze, is called backe by the Parker, as if he were such a Gentlemans, Knights, or Noble-mans seruant: but the Denter swears he cannot stay, the Parker tels him he must needs haue one word with him, and so stepping along with him some part of the way, secretly conueyes the Garbage to the Denter.

Other Lifts there are, that haunt Noble-mens houses at Parriages or solemne Renellings in Christmas, and the Halls of Companies when they make Feasts, at which times they lift away Goblets or other pceces of Plate, nappery, or any thing worth the ventring for.

Other ply Councelloes Chambers, that are well genteed, and sit downe in the outer rowmes like Country men, hauing blacke boxes by their sides, and papers in their hand: but their attendance is not for counsell, nor to pay any fees, but to lift away Cottons or Cloakes, by the rules of their owne Law. The like payge of Indentures do they draw in shops, betwixen Scriveners and themselves.

Another moze cunning then all these listings, is when in an euening, a Watfowler walks by and downe the streets, and counterfeits that he hath let fall a Ring, a Jewell, or a pcece of Gold, requesting some Pzentice (when there is but one in the shop) to lend him his candle a while to find his losses, who simply doth so, but the Lifter pozing a good while and not meeting with the Ring, lets the candle in the end slip out of his fingers, and whilst the Pzentice stays in to light it againe, the Denter or



he himselſe ſteales what garbage they can finger, and are gone in the meane time.

You haue another kind of Liſter, or moze properly a turning night Liſter, and it is thus: You ſhall haue a fellow, that in an euening or night time, or ſometime at home daies, as he likes the company, and ſo to his oppoꝝtunity, that will wilfully drop ſometime a ſpone, other while a ring, or elſe ſome peece of copied money, as the likenesse of Gold and ſiluer, and ſo ſpurning it aſoꝝe them in the blew of others, to the end they ſhould criſe halſe part, which he taking hold of, ſaith, nay by my troth, what will you giue me and take it all: and ſo ſome greedy ſoules offer thuy much, thinking it Gold, which the Liſter takes, as knowing it ſounterſeit, and ſo are they cunny-caught.

Then is there a kind of Liſt, who like a Jugler doth all his feates of himſelſe, not caring ſoꝝ the helpe of others, he goes attired like a ſeruicingman, booted and ſpurd and dirty as if hee had new ridden: his haunts are the beſt townes in the Countrey, vpon market dayes, but moſt commonly Faires: the birds hee watches ſoꝝ, are Knights, Eſquires, or Gentlemen that light at the greateſt Innes, whither moſt reſoꝝt is, who ſhall no ſoner come from hoꝝſe, but this Liſter is ready to hold his ſtitrop, or to walke his hoꝝſe as officiouſly as if he wore his cloth: ſo that to the Gueſt he ſeemes to be one to be belonging to the houſe, and to the ſeruants of the houſe hee appeares to be a follower of the Gentleman newly alighted. But the gueſt being departed from his Inne to the Towne, or into the Faire, backe comes this counterſeit Blew coate, running in all haſte ſoꝝ his Maſters cloake-bag or portmantua, and calls to the Diler or Chamberlain by his name to deliuer it, becauſe ſome things muſt be taken out ſoꝝ his Knight or the Gentleman his Maſter, that are in it. The pꝛep is put (herevpon) into the vultures tallons, and away flies he preſently to his neſt, to ſad and ſat his rauenous gorge with the garbage which he hath gotten.

But what neſts thinks you they ſle to: marrie to the houſe elſther of ſome noꝝtoꝝious trebble-chind band (in whole beds commonly theſe Serpents lye lurking) who keepes a ſtirling home, and byings vp young Trugs (vnder the colour of ſtirling Cans) that are Harlots to the Liſtes, or elſe to the Shops of certaine Bꝝokers, who traffike only in this kind of merchandize

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and by bills of sale (made in the name of Robin-godfelloes and his crew) get the goods of honest Citizens into their hands either detaining them so long in their chests till they be no more sought after, or else so altering them that the Owners shall hardly know them. Thus the Lift and his mates prepare the lime-ticks and catch the bird, but the Watode and Broker eat the flesh, and give the other onely the feathers.

### The High Law.

**A**Ll this while haue I read vnto you the beggarly Lawe, and base common Lawes of Willawp, by which the Dut-lawes of a kingdome, and Dut-casts of a well gouerned Common-wealth, maintaine their damnable courses. Now must you cast vp your eyes and looke aloft, if you haue a desire to behold the picture of the High Law, which taketh that name from the high expropts that are acted by it: the Schollers that learne it are called High-Lawyers; yet they neuer walke to Westminster to plead, though oftentimes they are called to the Barre, but then it is to haue them to hold vp their hands, that the hang-man may tell them their fortune. All the former lawes are attained by wit, but the High Law, stands both vpon Wit and Manhood. For the High Law, is nothing else but taking a purse by the High way-side, so that to bee a good practitioner in this Law, a man needs no more but a bold steepe looke, a good heart, and a good sword: The cases that hee is to plead vpon, is onely stand, and deliuer; All travellers are so beaten to the trials of this Law, that if they haue but rode ouer Whoters Hill, or Salisbury Plaine, they are as perfect in the principles of it, as if they had been 7. yeares in the company of High-Lawyers. The Councella High-Lawyer giues is common, but his fees are vn-reasonable, for hee strips his Clients of all. The motions which hee makes are both in Terme & out of Terme; I shall not need therefore to open any of his Cases. But only will tell you thus much, that this high law is comprehended in three Volumes, viz. The first that committs the Robbery, and is chiefe Clarke vnto Saint Nicholas, is called the High-Lawyer. The second setteth the watch is a Decripper. The third stands Centinell and does watch, is an Oke.

Hee

He that is robbed, is the partye. When he yieldeth, it is called *Whipping*. All the Whores in England have saine these High-law matters tryed, and therefore if any would know them, or the professors of them to a haire, let him but *Wep* into the *Wid-bailly* at any Sessions, and he shall heare moze.

The Sacking Law.

**T**he Companion of a Thiefe is commonly a Whore; it is not amisse therefore to pinneon them together: for what the thiefe gets, the strumpet spends. The trade of these Tale-bearers goes vnder the name of the *Sacking law*; and rightly may it be called *sacking*, for as in the *sacking* of a City, all the villanies in the world are set abroach; so when a Harlot comes to the *sacking* of a mans wealth and reputation (for she besiegeth both together) she leaues no Stratagem vnpractised in bzing him to confusion. Westminster and Holbozne haue Chambers full of these Students of the *Sacking law*. In Clerken well, they had twont and are still well choyced: White Friers is famous for their meeting: The Spittle flourisheth with the pong frie that are put to it to learne it. Sacks come to these Wils every houre, but the *Sacking law* empties them faster then a Miller grindes his bushels of cozne. He that hath a lust to practise this Law, must be furnished with these five Books, viz,

The Band, who if she be a woman is called a *Bandzelle*.

The Apple-squire, who is to fetch in wine.

The Whore who is called the commodity.

The Whore-house, which is called a *Trugging place*.

These five Anchors are so well knowne, and haue been so turned ouer lease by lease, that every man (almost) that liues in sight of the smoake of the City, hath them at his fingers ends, or if he cannot, it is an easie matter to find them by a Table. I will onely referre you to the Suburbs. But there is a second part of this *Sacking Law*, and that instructs Drunkes to attire themselves neatly in summer eueninges, and about ten or eleven of the clocke at night to walke vp and downe the most peopled straits of the City, very soberly and gingerly, till the wine

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 (by one Gull or other) be offered, which with a little intreaty he takes; but being in the midst of their bowles, or perhaps the silly cony being trayned home to a lodging, where he sits to Ribling; in comes a Russian with a drawn rapier, calls the Punk (as she is) damned whoze, asks what Rogue that is, and what he does with his wife: The conclusion of all this counterfeited swaggering being a plot betwixt this panderly Russian and the whoze to geld the silly sole of all the money hee hath in his purse, and sometimes to make him (rather then his credit should be called into question) to seale a bill or bond for other summes of money at such and such daies, and so send him packing, when he hath paid too deare for a bad dish of meat which he neuer tasted: the base Applesquiter and his young Distresse, laughing to see what a woodcocke they puld, and shring the feathers betwixne them. But when such comedies (of the Sacking Law) as these are plaide, then the whozes haue other names then are set downe before, and these they be:

The whoze is then called the Traffique.

The man that is brought in, is the Simpler.

The Russian that takes him napping, is the Crosbiter.

## The Figging Law.

**T**he Parliament of these bel-hounds, it sames will some bzeake vp, for they stand now onely vpon the last Law; which they call Figging Law: In making of which law two persons haue the chiefeest voices, that is to say, the Cut-purse and the pick-pocket, and all the branches of this law reach to none but them and such as are made free denizens of their intozpozation. This Figging Law (like the body of some monstrous and terrible beast) stands vpon ten sette, or rather lift vp proudly ten Dragon-like heads: the names of which heads are these. viz.

He that cuts the purse is called the Pip.

He that is halfe with him is the Snap, or the Cloper.

The knife is called a Cuttle-bung.

He that picks the pocket is called a Foist.

He that faceth the man is the Stale.

The taking of the purse is called Drawing.

The

The spying of this villany is called Smoking or Wopling.

The purse is the Bung.

The money the Shels.

The act doing is called Striking.

This Figging Law hath moze quirkes and quiddities in it then any of the former; it is as dangerous to meddle with as the High-Law, in pleading whose cases men are at daggers drawing: the schollers of this Art are cunning Sophisters, and had need to haue moze eyes then two in one head, because the Arguments they hold, and their bold villanies which they practise, are argued vpon and justified to his teeth with whom they contend. The Foist and the Pip (that is to say the Pocket diuer and the Cutpurse) are yewfellows together and of one Religion, but differ in some points. A purse well lined is the wet Cele they both bob for, but they strue to catch it by the taile after seuerall fashions. For the Pip works with his knife, the Foist with his hand: the Pip cuts the purse, the Foist draws the pocket: both their occupations are taught them by the Deuill, yet they both brag of the excellencie of them, and are ready sometimes to stab one another, about defending which is best; for the Foist counts himselfe the better man, and therefore is called (by the livery of his company) a Gentleman Foist, and so much scornes the title of a cutpurse, that he weares not a knife about him to cut his owne meate, lest he be held in suspicion to be a Pip, which he esteemes the basest office in the whole Army of Cheaters.

The schollers of the Figging Law, are infinite in number, their Colledge is great, their orders many, and their degrees (which are giuen to them by the Seniors of the house) very ancient, but very abhominable.

The language which they speak is none of those which came in at the confusion of Tongues, for neither Infidel nor Christian (that is honest) vnderstands it, but the Dialect is such and so crabbed, that seuen yeares study is little enough to reach to the bottome of it, and to make it run off glib from the tongue: by meanes of this Gibbish, they know their owne nation when they make, albeit they neuer saw one another before; and so consoymable are they to the ordinances of the Brotherhod, that whatsoeuer the wicked Elders amongst them shall prescribe,

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152 Actum est, tis a Law, and they will not breake it, yea not the proudest of them dare be so bold as to exercise his Art in any other place but in those that are appointed to him, nor once presume to set his foote into anothers walke, but by licence of the Signiorie.

For that purpose therefore, (as if a whole kingdome were theirs) they allot such countreies to this Band of Foists, such Townes to those, and such a City to so many Pips: whereupon some of these Boote-balers are called Termers, and they ply Westminster Hall: Michaelmas Terme is their harvest, and they sweate in it harder then reapers of Hay-makers doe at their woorks in the heat of summer. No Councelloz, Attourney, Pettifogger nor Solicitor is by earlier then they: nor at the Hall sooner then they: when Clyents begin to come crowding in, Watermen ply not their fares moze nimbly then the Pips, and Foists bestir themselves to picke vp their shels; the Hall and the old Wallace are their Pines, and they worke in them like Bees: the Exchequer Chamber, Star Chamber, Kings Bench and Common pleas, and Chancery are the beds of flowers, to which they fly humming to and fro continually to sucke the honey of gold and siluer. If a poore Clyent doe but stand by his Lawyer whilst he is pleading, and draues out his purse to pay his fees for counsell, or to the Court for dispatch of his businesse, these furies are sure to be at his elbow, watching (with Hawkes eyes) on which side he puts vp his purse, so that side they flye, and if their tallents can but touch it, it is their owne.

Others of them haue all the flesh and fish markets allowed them for their walks, as Cheape-side, East-cheap, the Shambles, both fishstreets, the Stocks, and the Bozough in Southwarke, in which places these faithfull Stewards of Lucifers Bonsholds, cheapen all commodities, onely to note what money wines or seruants that come to buy, haue in their purses, and where they put it by, which being well obserued, the Stall pyges his market, and folloves him or her (whose siluer is condemned) till they come to a presse of people: then does the Stall keep a thumping and a Jugling, whilst in the meane time the Foist is either in their pocket, or the Pip hath the purse fast by the strings. Others haunt Ale-houses onely, and the Beare-garden: some haue their pprecinct lying in the walkes of Pauls, their houres



houres of meeting there being betwene 10. and 11. the strokes they strike being sometimes in the middle Ile, if it be in Merne time, when the walks are full, but most commonly at the doores of the Church, which they will choake, and stirre for passage, whilst another doe the feat. At running at tilt, the 11. spawes day, any great shewing, any feay, any solemn arraignment, or execution, is better to these Belhoures, then a quarter day is to a Landloz, or then due sections are to the Hangman. Men so careless are these Dunces to be thre tuns headlong, and quicke into the pit of damnation, that even in Gods own house, and the sacred Temple, do they desperately commit their villanies, standing most devoutly with eyes elevated up to Heauen, befoze the preacher, where the presse of people is thickest, whilst their hands are nibling in honest mens pockets for their purses, who are careles of such woziplly matters there, as not mistrusting that any so bad minded dare enter into to holy a place. These Pips and Fofks goe oftentimes sleekely along with the shels which they got, but oftentimes are they dogged by certaine fellows (called Clovers) who hang upon them like Burres, and are more troublefome then wasps: for no sooner is a bang draine, but the Clover steps in for his Tenth, which he calls Snappage, if the Pip deny Snappage, the Clover forthwith Woyles him; that is, botwzages him or sealeth on his cloake.

You must vnderstand likewise, that both of Pips and Fofks there are two sorts, for there be City Pips, and country nips whose office is to haunt nothing but faires; these country Pips, neuer come into London to doe any peece of seruice, but at Bartholomewtide onely. Betwene these two sects is mostall enmitte, for if the City Fofk spy one of the country Fofks in London, he forthwith labours and lates wait to smoake or Woyle him, the like does the country Pip or Fofk by him of the City. There are also women Fofks and Pips as well as men, but farre more dangerous then the men: All the trapes of both sexes being subiect to the discipline of the Grand Pips & Fofks, and from whom, the better to receiue directions both what to doe, and what quarters to keepe (for they shift their walks according to the pleasure of the chiefe rangers) they haue a certaine house, sometimes at one end of the towne, sometimes at another, which is their hall; at this Hall the whole company doe  
waite

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make very orderly: by which meanes whensoever any notable or  
workmanlike stroke is stricken, though it were as farre as the  
North-borders, yet can the rest of the Fig-boies here resident in  
London, tell by whom this woorthy Act was plaid.

At this solemne meeting in their Hall, they chose Wardens,  
and Steward: the Wardens office is to establish wholesome  
Lawes to keepe life in their rotten Common-wealth, and to as-  
signe out to euery man his Stations. The treasurers office is  
very truly (though he be an arrant thiefe) to render an account  
of such moneys as are put into his hands vpon trust: for of euery  
purse (that is cleanly conueyed and hath good store of shels in it)  
a ratable portion is deliuered (in Banck as it were) to the Trea-  
surer, to the intent that when any of them is taken and cast into  
prison, a flag of truce may presently be hung out, and compositi-  
on offered to the wronged party, thereby to saue a brother of the  
society from riding west ward. This had wont to be an order a-  
mongst them: But now the Under-keepers of New-gate, (if  
complaint be made to them for the losse of any purse, they haue a  
trick to get a warrant, into which warrant they put the names of  
nine or ten of the most notorious Foisits and Pips that are free  
of their Gaole (which they call Whittington Colledge) and those  
Pips and Foisits doe the Taplozs nip, till the money perhaps  
double be restozed, albeit not one of them that are specified in the  
warrant were guilty of the fact: This trick doth greatly impoue-  
rish the tradesmen of this mistery, and may in time bitterly ouer-  
throw the Students of the Figging Law.

### The five jumps at Leap-frog.

The whole volume of these detestable Lawes is now read  
ouer, to catch a heat therefore after so long sittings, let vs  
exercise our selues a while at a new play, called the five Jumps  
at Leap-frog. The property of the game at Leap-frog, is (as  
euery Whentice and Carter knowes) for one man to stoop, to  
let another come ouer him, so in these Jumps the running  
Cheaters sweat onely to make a man stoop so low, that they  
make bzeake his backe, and then they ride ouer his misery with  
laughter.

The first Jump is called Horse-courling, and that is done thus; A fellow in good cloathes and with an honest face to the eye, hires of a Carler a Pagg to ride along with him to Cambridge, Oxford, Norwich, or any great Towne of trade: but let the journey be neuer so long, this Rider will end it in a fortnone at most, for whilst the Carler is busie about his teame on the way, and looking to his charge, my horse-courler steeps aside into some by-lane, and lights at some paultry Towne nēte the City where he will lye, till he haue (in Capons and wine) eaten vp the Carlers beast alive; and then departs on fote, sending the poore man word where his Pzancer stands at rack and manger, who if hee will haue him, must disburse forty Shillings or thirtie pound, for his Fades diet. The Hackney-men of Rochester haue bene oftentimes come ouer with this Jampe at Leape-frog and know the game well, for a man cannot name it, but they are ready to giue it a carse.

The second Jump is called carrying of stones, and that is perfozmed on this manner: A crue of sharking companions (of which there bee sundry consozts lurking about the Suburbs of this City) being dyluē out of meanies, by leauing base and idle liues, or else by their riotous expences amongst whores, practise to lye vpon the scā-simple of their wits; and hauing amongst them all some little money left (which they call their Shooing-bozhe) they seake out some blind victualling house, or Cookes house, without the bars, whose Host (if it be possible) is either an alle easie to be ridden, or else a common drunkard. In this Colts house will they sit carousing halfe cannes day and night, and pay royally at first for what they call, that Shooing-bozhe of theirs dzawing the Host and Hostesse on to belēge they shall be made for euer by these guests: who to gull the poore Goodcap the better, dzaw all their acquaintance they can to the house, neuer either dzinking or feeding, but mine Host must sit at the boozds end like a Magnifico in pomp, with his ale-dzoapt greasie doublet shining by candle light, as if it were an old rusty Armour scuriously scowzed. But when these Horse-leeches haue sackt their guts full, or rather the pittifully complaining Hosts guts empty, that he finds by his scozes he can trust no more, then do they at one time or other talke of state matters, or of religion when the good man of the house can scarce stand on his

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legs vnder his owne rose, and trip him in some words, which the next day (being told of it, and the words iustified to his face) he knowes he dares not answer, with which hooke holding his nose to the grindstone, they write their mind in great round Des of chalke, behind a doze, which Des they call stones: the waight of them being such, that loke how many shillings they make, so many times the wretched Hostesse cries D. as groning vnder the burden. Now Sir, of these Des, twenty shillings make a load, and ten pound make a barke-full: which when they haue well fraughted, these Dunkerks hopst sayle and to Sea againe, they goe in another vessell to finde another Bazarleman, that is to say, into another tipling house to finde another Jade whom they map all saddle and get vp vpon: if their last Host follow them with a Bayliffe or a Sergeant, they onely hold vp a finger, naming a Pursuant and cry Hum, no more mine Host, you wot what, which words are of more power to blow him away, then if you fired him thence with traines of gunpowder. By meanes of this Jume, some Victuallers haue leaped cleane out of dozes, and with the fall haue bene ready to lye in the streets.

The third Jume is called sawning, those that leape at it are Fawne guests, and that is done in the edge of the euening, when a Cheater meeting a stranger in the darke and taking him for another, gets the stranger by some sleight to a Tauerne, where calling for two pints of sundry wines, the Drawer setting the wines downe with two cups, as the custome is, the Jumper tastes of one pinte (no matter which) and finds fault with the wine, saying, it is too hard, but rose-water and sugar would send it downe merrily, and for that purpose takes vp one of the cups, telling the stranger, hee is well acquainted with the Boy at the Barre, and can haue two penny worth of Rosewater for a penny of him, and so steps from his seate, the stranger suspecting no harme, because the Fawne-guest leanes his cloake at the end of the table behind him. But this Jume coming to be measured, it is found that he that went to take his rising at the barre, hath stolne ground and out-leaped the other more faste then hee can recover in haste, for the cup is leaped away with him, for which the woodcocke that is taken in the springe, must pay fifty shillings or thre pound, and hath nothing but an

an old thredbare cloake not worth ten groats to make amends for his losses.

The fourth Jumps is called Foole-taking, and that is done severall waies, sometimes by setting a couple of suttie rogues to sing ballads on a stall, till a number of people presse about them to buy their trash, and then their purses being discovered, are quickly in the nips fingers. Others are foole-taken by letting chambers to fellows like serving men, in the name of such an Esquire, or such a Knight, or such a Captaine new come from the low Countries, bying in a truncke exceeding heauey, and crammd full of byick-bats, which is left in the hired Chamber, and five times the value of it lifted away instead of it. With this Jumps many Paid servants, and their wealthy Masters haue been ouer-reached by counterfeit kins-men that haue brought a chese or a Gammon of Bacon to the pooze wench, claiming kindred of her whether she wil or no, and afterwards being (for his chese and bacon) inuited to the Citizens table, haue in the night time taken away plate, or other commodities in exchange of his white-meats.

The fift Jumps is called Spooone meat, and that is a messe of knauery serued in about Supper time in the edge of an evening likewise. It is done thus: A silly fellow in thew, attired like a clostone, spurnes (being nere some candle that stands on a stall) a paper befoze him, in which is wraapt vp a spoone, taking vp which and looking on it by the light and making it knowne (by his loud talking and wondering what he hath found) that hee tooke it vp by chance, people flocke about him, and imagine it is a siluer and gilt spoone, for it lookes very faire, but he seeming to be an innocent corcombe, knowes not hee saies, what he should doe with such a geiw gaw: whereupon euery one is catching at it, and offers him money for it; hee wishes hee had rather found money then such a bable, for hee eates not his pottage in plate; in the end, some for amongst all the Cubbes that stand about him, whispers in his eare, to haue it from all the rest and thrusts a crowne pziully into his hand. The Jumper takes it, and sneakes away; the other gets home as fast as he can, longing till he call his wife, all his household and neighbours about him, to shew what a pennie-

worth he met with, but the guilt spawne coming to be tried of what mettall he is made, the poore mans money proues copper, and he himselfe is laughed at for a Corcombe.

How long shall I saile vpon these godlesse waters? Is it not time to get a shoare? Is it not fit that I should now found a retreat and not wearp my pen in the execution of such base and barbarous minded Captiuities? What a battaile haue I vnder-taken? and with what an ignoble enemy? to contend with whom is an act inglorious, and to conquer whom (but that they are open and professed foes to the Republick, to honesty, to ciuility, and to all humanity) were as much dishonour, as by them to be overcome.

Who would imagine that a Kingdome so fertill in all sorts of wholesome discipline, there should grow vp such rancke and such pestilent beds of Hemlocke? That in the very heart of a State so rarely governed, and diected by good Lawes, there should breed such loathsome and such vicerous impostumes? That in a Citty so politike, so ciuill, and so seuer, such ugly, base and bold impieties dare shew their faces? What an Army of insufferable Abuses, detestable Vices, most damnable Villanies, abominable pollutions, inextricable mischiefes, forbiddeniquinations, horrible and Bel-bound like perpetrated flagitious enormities haue bene here mustered together? vnder what deuillish commanders are they conducted? what colozs of damnation do they fight vnder? what dismall Ensigne doe they spred? what forces do they bring into the field? How full of courage they are? how full of cunning? how politicke are the King-leaders of these faeries? how resolute are all the troops? what strange armor haue they (of subtiltie, and desperate boldnes) to encounter and set vpon their opposites? what artillery haue they to batter downe Order, Law, Custome, plaine dealing, and all the good guards and defences of Gouvernement? What remaineth therefore (in an assault so dangerous to a Common-wealth, and so hotly and daily prosecuted) but that Justice her selfe must come into the field, leading with her all her forces? That the Triple-body of the State may knit all their perues together and sit in Counsell, setting downe stratagems and Lawes how to race for euer (out of so noble a Kingdome) such



such Rebels to the peace and honour of it : That the reuerend Judges may out of a detestation of the liues of these monsters, lock vp their eyes and eares from pittie, when any of these Swa-  
gages are caught and brought befoze them : That all inferiour ministers of Justice may be vigilant, faithfull and seuerel in hant-  
ting them into Gaoles, that are the fittest toyles for them to fall into, and that the hangman may not lye lazing and complaine for want of worke, so many infected bodies being to be found in euery  
cozner of the land, whom no medicine can cure, but the phisicke which he bestowes vpon him at the Gallows : Where I leave them, as to the hauein in which they must all cast Anchor, if De-  
ricks Cables doe but hold, and vnesse they amend. Give thanks to the Belman of London, if either profit or pleasure be gained by this Discouery.

### *Operis Peroratio.*

A Short Discourse of Canting, which is the lan-  
guage spoken by all the Ragged Regiment  
*that serue under the colours of the*  
Belman.



Thus hath our Belman (like a faithfull and watch-  
full Centinell) walkt his round : An army of a  
most strange people hath he mustered together :  
In their true colours of villany hath he dyatone  
these Frae-boters, their habits, their behani-  
ours and their properties, are to the life disco-  
uered ; yet all this is but a dumbe picture. It shall not bee a  
miske therefore if I glue speech vnto it by lending it a tongue.  
In doing which you may perceiue how polittike a Common-  
wealth these Out-laiues of the Kingdome maintaine among  
themselves, in deuising not onely strange and subtill Strata-  
gems to uphold them in a base and idle licentious kind of life,

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but also in inuventing a language which none vnderstand but those that are Students in their damned Art, the better to couer their villanies, when they (in their talke) practise to set them abzoach.

My purpose notwithstanding in this is not to bestow vpon you so liberall and full a discourse, as this matter doth require, but onely at this time to giue you a taste of that which in a second part of this booke shall (God willing) be moze amply discovered. In which second part, our Bell-man of London shall bring to light a number of moze notable enozmities (dayly hatched in this Realme) then euer haue yet bene published to the open eye of the world. These are small spots, the other are the great blemishes, or rather the Ulcerous sores that make the body of a kingdome appeare ugly and deformed. A larger net shall then be spread, and moze dangerous serpents shall fall into the snare, to the intent that their stings may be pulled out, and all their popson may be drawne from them, to make those that as yet know not how infectious they are, be afraid to approach or to bee in sight of such deuouring monsters. But because I will not haue them bozne befoze their time (being yet but in the Shell) lest by that meanes they miscary in their brood, and so you should be deceiued in your expectation: let vs in the meane time stand with attentiue eares, and listen to an Vpright-man whom I espie ready to encounter with a wild Rogue. And this is their Dialogue.

A short Dialogue betweene an Vpright-man and a Rogue,  
in the Canting language.

*The Vpright Cofe Canteth to the Rogue.*

1 *Vpr.* **B**Ene lightmans to thy quarrones: in what lipken hast thou lipped in this darkemans? whether in a libbege, or in the Strummell?

2 *Rog.* I couched a Hogshead in a Skipper this darkmans.

3 *Vpr.* I towre the Strummell tryne vpon the nabchet and tog-man.

4 *Rog.* I say by the Silomon I will lage it off with a gage of bene bowse: then cut to my nose warch.

5 *Vpr.* Why? hast thou any lowre in thy bung to bowse?

6. *Rog.*

of London.

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6 *Rog.* But a flag, a win, and a make.

7 *Vpr.* Where is the ken that hath the bene bowse?

8 *Rog.* A bene Mort, heereby at the signe of the prauncer.

9 *Vpr.* I cut, it is quire bowse, I bow'd a flag the last darkmans.

10 *Rog.* But bowse ther a bord and thou shalt have benship : towre yee, yonder is the ken, dup the Giber, and mawnd that is benship.

11 *Vpr.* This bowse is as good as Rome bowse, now I towre that bene bowse makes nase nabs, mawnd of this Mort, what bene pecke is in her ken?

12 *Rog.* She hath a cackling chese, a grunting chese, ruffe, peck, Cassan; and poplars of yarum.

13 *Vpr.* That is benship to our watch; now we have wel bow'd, let us strike some chere: yonder dwelleth a quire cussen, it were benship to mill him.

14 *Rog.* So may we happen on the Harmans, and cly the Iarke, or to the quire ken, and scowre quire crampinges, and so to trymming on the cheres.

15 *Vpr.* The Russian cly thee, farwell and betrinde.

This is their phrase, this the Rethozicke of our English Rogues, and this (upon aduice or occasion) they varie, putting out some words, and in their stead inuenting others more new. This was none of the language that was spoken at the confusion of tongues, but this is a mere confusion in it selfe. And because you haue no Dictionaries to giue you the English of these words, you shall haue the selfe same companions speake the same Dialogue in their owne naturall language.

The Vpright-man speaketh to the Rogue.

1 *Vpr.* **G**ood morrow to thy body, in what house hast thy  
Glypen all night: in a bed or in the straw?

2 *Rog.* I slept in a barne this night.

3 *Vpr.* I see the straw hang vpon thy cap and coat.

4 *Rog.* I swear by the Masse, I will wash it off with a quart of good drinke, and then talke to me what thou wilt.

5 *Vpr.* Why hast thou any money in thy purse?

6 *Rog.* But a groat, a penny, and a halfe penny,

7 *Vpr.*

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- 7 Vpr. Where is the house that has the good drinke?  
8 Rog. It is a good wench hereby at the signe of the horse.  
9 Vpr. Is it small and scurie drinke? A drinke a groat  
here late night.  
10 Rog. But drinke there a shilling and thou shalt haue very  
good; so, ponde the house, open the dooze and call for the best.  
11 Vpr. This drinke is as good as wine; now I see, that good  
drinke makes a drunken head: aske of this wench what meat  
she hath in the house?  
12 Rog. She hath a Hen, a Pig, bacon, chiese, and milk-pottage.  
13 Vpr. That is very good for vs now we haue drunke, lets  
steale somewhat: ponde dwels a churlish cozmozant, it were a  
good deed to rob him.  
14 Rog. So we may chauce to sit in the Rocks, and be either  
whipped, or had to prison, and there be shackled with bolts and  
fettters, and then to be hanged on the gallowes.  
15 Vpr. The Deuill take thee, farewell and be hang'd.  
Poore of this Canting, with other matters of more worthy  
note shall be handled by our Belman at his second walking by  
and downe the City.

FINIS.

